

## Carlos questioned over 1975 killings

PARIS (R) — Guerrilla mastermind "Carlos the Jackal" was questioned by a magistrate for three hours on Friday over the killings of three men in Paris in 1975 during a failed French bid to seize him, justice sources said. The sources said Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere summoned Carlos, a Venezuelan whose real name is Rich Ramirez Sanchez, to Paris' central law court. A French appeals court sentenced Carlos in his absence to life in jail in 1992 for the murder of two French counter-espionage officers and a Libyan informer shot dead when they called on Carlos at his Paris hotel in June 1975. Carlos was also found to have seriously wounded a third French agent. Mr. Bruguiere notified Carlos in October that he was accused of murder and attempted murder over the case in a new probe. Under French law, offenders sentenced in absentia must be retried if captured. Carlos was seized in Sudan in August and whisked to France where he is being held pending trial.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراي.

Volume 18 Number 5753

AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1994, JUMADA ALAWAL 24, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## S. Arabia, other countries hail Jordan-Israel treaty

### Kuwait said ready for diplomatic ties with Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia on Friday welcomed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which was signed Wednesday, and voiced hope that it would pave the way towards comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has also welcomed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty though he expressed some reservations about some of its articles, according to the Frankfurter newspaper.

"Mr. Arafat told the newspaper in an interview which was published Friday, 'We welcome the agreement; We made it possible.'"

The Palestinian leader continued that the treaty in some points contradicts the Palestinian self rule agreement, stressing that the Palestinian leadership does not accept these points. The reference was to Israel's recognition of Jordan's historic role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem.

The Saudi welcome to the treaty came as U.S. President Bill Clinton bearded for the Kingdom on the last leg of a regional tour.

"Saudi Arabia hopes that the treaty signed by Israel and Jordan will be a new step towards a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," said a Saudi government spokesman quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency.

"A just, lasting and comprehensive peace means that this step should be followed by others, concerning the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and the remaining issues linked to the peace process."

Mr. Clinton, who attended the signing of the peace treaty Wednesday in the desert between Jordan and Israel, was due to hold talks with

King Fahd Friday in Hafr Al Baten, northeastern Saudi Arabia.

The emir of Kuwait said Friday that his country would work for diplomatic relations with Israel after the Jewish state and its immediate Arab neighbours make peace.

"As soon as the peace process is finished successfully, this will be achieved," Sheikh Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah told a reporter who had asked when Kuwait would start direct talks with Israel and open embassies.

The sheikh spoke alongside U.S. President Clinton after the two held talks at Bayan Palace. Mr. Clinton later left Kuwait bound for Hafr Al Baten.

"By helping lead the way to end the boycott of Israel, Kuwait is saying let us close the door on the past," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

A Kuwait government official who requested anonymity told AFP that "Kuwait is ready to have diplomatic relations with Israel. But we're waiting for Syria."

"The peace process is like a train and our train cannot jump on others. But at the end we will reach Tel Aviv," the Kuwaiti official said.

"The general tendency and mood in Kuwait is heading towards peace with Israel," he added. "I'm optimistic about establishing relations with Israel."

Meanwhile, His Majesty King Hussein has received more cables of congratulations on signing the treaty as world governments continued to welcome it.

King Hussein received cables from Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov, the Czech

(Continued on page 7)

## IAF deputy injured in mosque violence

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An outspoken opponent of the peace treaty with Israel was slightly injured in clashes after Friday prayers at a mosque in Amman, as police used teargas to break up a demonstration in the northern city of Irbid, sources said.

Meanwhile, a multitude of organisations issued statements supporting the peace treaty.

But the Professional Associations Union, an umbrella group, announced a boycott against people dealing with Israel.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Aziz Abu Zant was taken to King Hussein Medical Centre after suffering minor injuries in clashes with police after delivering a sermon against the peace treaty that Jordan and Israel signed Wednesday, IAF sources claimed.

But a government spokesman said the deputy was hurt in clashes inside the Abu Hureirah Mosque in the Jabal Al Akhdar area in east Amman when clashes erupted during prayers.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the unnamed official as saying Mr. Abu Zant had defied an order not

to address the prayers and prevented the designated preacher, Sami Al Najjar, from speaking, thus provoking the Al Najjar supporters who clashed with Mr. Abu Zant and his followers inside the mosque before the fighting spread outside.

The spokesman said Mr. Abu Zant was injured in the clash and police intervened to break up the fight. He said an official investigation will be launched.

But IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times that police beat Sheikh Abu Zant outside the mosque after delivering the "balanced" speech in which he attacked the peace process.

He contended the attack against the deputy, known for his fiery speeches, was unjustified and had nothing to do with the sermon he gave. He claimed police were around the mosque before the noon prayers started and tried to prevent him from speaking.

The government spokesman said the name of the preacher at the mosque was published in the newspapers and Sheikh Abu Zant knew he was not supposed to deliver the sermon.

To Irbid, para-military

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordan to present \$18b projects in Casablanca

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is carrying proposals estimated to cost \$18 billion involving national, regional, and international projects to the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference which opens in Casablanca, Morocco, on Sunday.

The Crown Prince, who left for Germany en route to Morocco on Thursday accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, is expected to outline Jordan's economic strategy and the Kingdom's central role in the region.

The main theme of the Crown Prince's speech to the gathering of heads of state and government and senior officials from more than 50 governments in Casablanca will be the need to ensure that ordinary people enjoy a better standard of life as part of peace in the region.

A Jordanian presentation to the summit says: "Our generation that has known nothing but regional strife, constant disruptions and homelessness is looking at the situation with a certain amount of disbelief, even questioning the obvious and, hoping that what we see is not only an illusion."

Jordan, which will host a follow-up conference to the Casablanca summit in Amman in the spring of 1995, has drawn up a comprehensive package of proposals to be submitted to the meeting in the Moroccan city.

The nearly 160-page document entitled "Tomorrow has Arrived... Investing in People" includes ambitious projects in all sectors of the economy and infrastructure.

It proposes projects estimated to cost \$680 million in agriculture, \$2.34 billion in energy — including a \$1.5 billion pipeline to bring Iraqi oil to the Kingdom — \$60 million in environment, \$140 million in health, \$200 million in human resources development (education), \$388 million in industry, \$900 million in road projects, \$1.25 billion in railways, \$125 million to expand Aqaba seaport, \$80 million to modernise airports, \$1.45 billion in telecommunications, \$1.6 billion in tourism, and \$8.9 billion in the water sector, including \$3 billion Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal, a \$3 billion project to build a water pipeline from Turkey and a \$1.5 billion project to bring Euphrates water to Jordan.

The projects are classified as high, medium and low

(Continued on page 7)

## Rabin: Self-rule accord needs changes

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on limited Palestinian self-rule signed last year must be changed to tighten security arrangements, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday.

The agreement has contradictions and I know it will have to be corrected for it to be implemented. These changes are needed especially in the security area," Mr. Rabin told the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot.

The Israeli and Palestinian populations can not be separated if the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are maintained in their present state, Mr. Rabin said.

Israel demanded that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) crack down on hardliners opposed to the autonomy deal after a string of deadly attacks by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

"I cannot achieve such a separation and still insist that no settlements will be dismantled," Mr. Rabin said.

He also told the Maariv daily: "The problem between us and the Palestinians is

much harder to resolve than with the Arab countries because there is no border, at least at the moment."

Since 1967 Israel has built some 120 settlements in the West Bank and 19 in the Gaza Strip.

Under the declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule signed in September 1993, the Israeli army is to redeploy away from Palestinian population areas before elections to an autonomy council.

Mr. Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat are to discuss the implementation of Palestinian autonomy on Sunday on the sidelines of the Middle East economic conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

An aide to Mr. Arafat said the conference in Morocco could fail if Israel's ban on Palestinian workers was not lifted.

The aide, Nabil Shaath, said Mr. Arafat would meet Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the conference. Mr. Rabin is to fly to Morocco on Sunday. Mr. Peres left on Friday.

"If the closure is not lifted, the Morocco economic summit will be overshadowed by

a big cloud of suspicion and the summit might fail," Dr. Shaath said.

Israel indefinitely sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a suicide bomber killed 22 people and himself in Tel Aviv last week.

Mr. Rabin said after the attack that Israel faced a "big decision" on separating Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Shaath described the closure as "illegal" and said it was harming Palestinians economically.

Some 60,000 Palestinians worked at mostly menial jobs in Israel before the ban.

U.S. President Bill Clinton set up the Casablanca meeting after Mr. Arafat complained to him on Wednesday in Cairo that talks on the next stage of autonomy had stagnated, foreign ministry officials said.

Israel has agreed to transfer authority to the Palestinians in the West Bank for health, social welfare, taxation and tourism as well as education which was handed over in August.

But the government first wants Mr. Arafat to have enough money coming in from donor countries to cover the budgets of the depart-

ments which are currently run by the Israeli army.

Mr. Rabin would tell the PLO chief to rein in opponents of the autonomy deal, the officials said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged Israel to show more flexibility in the transfer of power when he met Mr. Peres on Thursday.

Mr. Peres told reporters Israel would try to arrange a new donor meeting next month so the transfer could go ahead.

One of Mr. Rabin's officials said the government was looking to transfer authority to the Palestinians in the middle of November.

However, he added, a redeployment of the Israeli army outside built-up areas on the West Bank would depend on an agreement on elections to a council for autonomy.

Palestinian police have arrested two Arab journalists in the Gaza Strip to question them about possible ties with militants, officials said Friday.

Relatives said that Taber Shreiteh, 34, a correspondent

(Continued on page 12)

## U.S. introduces Bosnia resolution

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright on Friday introduced a Security Council resolution calling for a lifting of the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia in six months unless the Bosnian Serbs accept an international peace pact. The document also asks U.N. secretary general to plan for the "orderly and safe redeployment" of U.N. personnel in the Balkans in the event the arms embargo is lifted, a U.S. official said. Britain, France and Russia oppose any lifting of the arms embargo on grounds it would fuel the fighting in the Balkans and endanger U.N. troops on the ground. All three have troops in the U.N. peacekeeping force in Bosnia. Earlier in Washington, a State Department official said the United States would consider unilateral action if the U.N. effort fails. "Our primary concern is for the Bosnian government to be able to defend itself," spokesman David Johnson said. If the resolution is not approved, President Bill Clinton will consult with Congress on the possibility of unilaterally lifting the arms embargo, Mr. Johnson added.

## Clinton visit to Jordan highly positive

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's 24-hour visit to Jordan is seen as highly positive and having reaffirmed the strength of Jordanian-American relations after a period of strain caused by the Gulf crisis.

His Majesty King Hussein, who saw off President Clinton upon his departure for Syria early Thursday, told reporters at the airport that Jordanian-American relations were better than any time in the past.

The King said President Clinton's visit, which came at very short notice, and his attendance at the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty on Wednesday highlighted the significance of the event.

The King said he considered this "new era of peace as a new beginning" for himself as well as the Jordanian people.

President Clinton arrived in Aqaba from Cairo early Wednesday. After attending the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and signing the document as witness in a ceremony in Wadi Araba, he flew to Amman and addressed the Jordanian Parliament.

In his speech, the president underlined the importance of the U.S. attaches to its relations with Jordan and pledged that the U.S. stood by the Kingdom and would meet its legitimate defence requirements. He also promised to study closer economic

cooperation with Jordan.

"Those who take risks for peace must not stand alone. We will work with Jordan to meet your legitimate defence requirements and give you the security you deserve," Mr. Clinton told Parliament. Both countries were "fighting the same battle. Today that is the struggle for peace," he said.

Mr. Clinton pledged U.S. support for the creation of a Middle East development bank, saying his country would contribute \$75 million to an investment fund to finance projects in the Jordan Valley.

Economic expert Fahd Fanek described as "excellent" Mr. Clinton's remarks and said they were important

because they committed future U.S. administrations to support Jordan.

"The peace treaty will have a positive impact on several sectors of the economy but most important it will help reduce the levels of unemployment and poverty in the country," Mr. Fanek added.

The president, who was accompanied by his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton and a 1,200-strong delegation of senior officials and businessmen, was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Their Majesties the King and Queen Wednesday.

The King also presented President Clinton and his

(Continued on page 12)

## Clinton promises Israel-Syria progress

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has promised progress between Israel and Syria from his Middle East peace tour but the only tangible results appeared between the lines, officials said.

"We made a lot of progress in the last two years, we will make a lot in the future," Mr. Clinton confidently told reporters as he left Israel to wind up his regional tour in the Gulf.

"We just gotta keep going," he said when asked if he was disappointed with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. "Don't be discouraged; we'll get going."

"I leave redoubled in my determination to continue until we have a comprehensive peace."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told AFP: "There is no breakthrough but great progress."

"The state of the negotiations between Israel and Syria is better after the Clinton meeting than before."

A senior foreign ministry official explained: "There is progress in the language of peace used by President Assad."

"For the first time he said explicitly that in exchange for a withdrawal from the Golan, Syria was ready to establish normal peaceful relations with Israel."

"That corresponds to the Israeli conception of normalisation with Damascus."

However, Israeli newspaper reported "disappointment." The Maariv saw "nothing new" and regretted Mr.

Assad's failure to condemn "terrorism."

When Mr. Clinton met the Syrian leader in Geneva last January, Mr. Assad said there could be "normal, peaceful relations—among all," but did not specifically mention Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has long urged Syria to commit itself to total peace with normalisation of diplomatic and trade ties.

After meeting Mr. Rabin on Thursday following three hours of talks in Damascus, Mr. Clinton claimed some success in the search for peace.

"I was convinced we needed to add new energy to the talks and I've come away from Syria convinced that some significant progress has at least been made possible,"

he said.


But Mr. Clinton insisted he could not reveal a private conversation in which Mr. Assad spoke "about details of this process."

U.S.—Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has visited the Middle East five times since May trying to bridge the gaps, will resume his shuttle diplomacy in the region in three or four weeks.

Mr. Rabin was more reserved and urged consideration of the broader picture not the fine detail of the latest statement to the press.

He recalled the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians and Wednesday's signing of a peace treaty with Jordan, witnessed by Mr. Clinton.

(Continued on page 7)



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## Israel hopes Arab boycott will crumble

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel expects next week's conference on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa to initiate its economic integration in the Arab World by breaking down the vestiges of the Arab boycott, already breached in many ways.

Israel's delegation to the Casablanca parley of 1,000 participants is taking more than 100 public and private cooperation projects in a wide spread of activities. To underscore how important the meeting is viewed here, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is going to the forum with almost half his government cabinet, accompanied by 100 company chiefs.

"For the first time, dozens of Israeli and Arab businessmen are going to meet right out in the open," enthused Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who is also going.

The Moroccan-hosted conference was a "new stage in the burial of the Arab boycott," said Yoram Bli-zovsky, head of the association of Israeli industrialists.

The six Gulf states said at the end of September that they were lifting the indirect boycott measures affecting foreign firms trading with Israel. Chamber of commerce statistics show the full boycott has cost Israel \$40 billion since the state was founded in 1948.

Mr. Peres said the priority was to get the country out of half a century of isolation by creating a Mideast regional economy on the lines of the European Union. To that end, the delegation is going to present a thick folder of

development options and major public works as part of regional cooperation.

One scheme full of symbolism is a network of "highways of peace," 1,700 kilometres of roads linking Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Palestinian territories.

Dams on the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers are proposed, along with more water desalination plants and recycling of used waters.

Ambitious tourist plans include a "riviera" on the Red Sea, winter sports resorts in northern Israel and Syria and Lebanon, and a giant tourist theme park in the Dead Sea.

Mr. Peres commented: "Europe was built up from coal and steel, we ought to begin with water and tourism."

In the energy sector, Israel wants to link electricity networks and have oil pipelines at its Mediterranean ports to carry Gulf oil to Europe, bypassing the Suez Canal.

Finance could come from a proposed Middle East investment bank, akin to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development set up for Eastern Europe. Mr. Peres spoke of capital of \$10 billion, put up by Israel, Arab states, the United States, Japan and the European Union.

Bank of Israel Governor Yaakov Frenkel said it was imperative that private enterprise move in. The Israeli business team has 140 joint company projects for discussion, including dairies, ice cream and yoghurt plants, irrigation equipment, and construction of medical centres and hotels.



King Hassan II and Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed of Morocco on Friday greet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at Bouznika, 40 kilometres south of Casablanca (AFP photo)

## Hamas assails Jordan-Israel peace treaty

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has lashed out at the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, labelling it as yet another "surrender" that facilitates the domination of the region by Israel.

But the Islamic movement held the PLO primarily responsible for the agreement, saying that the Jordanian-Israeli accord could not have materialised had the PLO not "surrendered to the Zionist will."

Hamas rejected the agreement for failing to address the plight of refugees and displaced persons, and for setting a "dangerous precedent" of leasing Arab land to Israel.

The way in which the treaty deals with Jerusalem also came under fire from Hamas, which said the peace accord focused on the religious aspects of the city but ignored threats to it from Jewish settlements and the eviction of Palestinians from it.

This "betrayment" of the question of Jerusalem to an

issue of religious custodianship, said Hamas, also has led to conflict between Jordan and the PLO, which might have dangerous repercussions on the organic and historical relations between the Jordanian and the Palestinian people.

Jordan says the issue of refugees will be discussed by a tripartite committee that includes in addition to the Kingdom, Egypt, the PLO and Israel, as agreed by the Palestinians.

The Kingdom has repeatedly asserted that the recognition by the Israelis of its religious role in Jerusalem does not conflict with the Palestinians' claims to political sovereignty over the city, a claim which Jordan has said it supports.

Expressing its unequivocal

rejection of the treaty, Hamas said the accord will not be able to cancel Palestinian, Arab and Muslim rights in Palestine and will not conquer the will of the Arab and Muslim nations.

In a separate statement, Hamas issued a strong warning to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat against the pledge he made to U.S. President Bill Clinton to fight Hamas in the occupied territories, saying its reaction and that of the Palestinian people will be "unpleasant."

Describing Mr. Arafat as a tool of the occupation, Hamas said the PLO, Israel and the United States will not be able to eliminate Hamas, which "has become part of the collective conscience of the Palestinian people."

## Book-bartering helps Iraqis put food on table

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Writers and artists are being forced to sell their prized book collections to survive in Iraq today, where four years of devastating U.N. sanctions are taking a toll.

The narrow Al Mutanabbi street in the heart of the city is now crowded with people selling their books, many of the volumes gathered over a lifetime and are now seen as a luxury for families struggling just to feed and clothe themselves.

Journalist and playwright Ahmad Saleh is not ashamed of his new job as bookseller.

"My salary from the theatre and cinema box offices was 250 dinars (about 50 cents), plus a 500 dinar bonus. Enough to feed my

wife and two daughters for two days."

One day he packed up his book collection and set up shop on a corner of the sidewalk.

He began to specialise in school and university texts, which proved to be a smart move, as the state has not been able to import books since sanctions were imposed after Baghdad invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Students are forced to search for medical texts or dictionaries on the shelves of second-hand shops among piles of back copies of the National Geographic — dating from the 1970s — along with Egyptian romance novels and poetry anthologies.

## Ali Mahdi to boycott reconciliation meeting

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somalia's self-proclaimed "interim president," Ali Mahdi Muhammad, will next week boycott a reconciliation conference to be attended by his rival General Mohammed Farah Aided, one of his allies has said.

General Mohammed Abshir Muse, president of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), added however, that "this initiative is unilateral and factional:

We refuse to associate ourselves with it."

The SSDF is one of the "Group of 12" factions allied to Mr. Ali Mahdi in opposition to Gen. Aided, the main warlord in the Somali capital Mogadishu, where fierce clan fighting has taken place this week.

The reconciliation conference, aimed at designating a government of national unity for the anarchic Horn of Africa country, had been due to

take place on Thursday but was postponed until next Tuesday, because clan leaders failed to agree on a chairman.

Mr. Ali Mahdi had also called for a delay.

"From the outset, we have stated that this conference was not serious," Mr. Mohammed Abshir said.

"We want all the leaders from all the regions to take part in it."

The U.N. Security Council's current president, Colin

Keatinge of New Zealand, warned Thursday that "international aid to Somalia would continue only if the warring clans in this anarchic Horn of Africa nation agree to reconcile."

If that happened, he told a press conference in Mogadishu, the 16,000 U.N. troops here would remain till the end of March next year, and reconstruction aid would continue beyond that date.

## U.S. embassy in Baghdad caught in time warp

By Neil MacFarquhar  
The Associated Press  
BAGHDAD — On a coffee table in the U.S. embassy is a magazine published by the Voice of America — dated July 1989.

The building exists in a time warp, its remains mostly untouched since Iraq broke ties with the United States on February 9, 1991, several weeks after the start of the Gulf war.

Yet despite frozen relations between Baghdad and Washington, there are signs Iraq has maintained diplomatic contacts with the Americans through third countries and at the United Nations. It wants more direct contacts because it realises that its diplomatic and military options are shrinking and its economy is bowing under tough economic sanctions.

The American embassy in Baghdad is now officially called the U.S. interests section of the Polish embassy.

The Marine Corps' gold and Red Crescent still heralds the entrance to offices. The walls are covered in framed pictures of American cities. The stars and stripes hang behind the desk where Ambassador April Glaspie sat in the tense weeks leading up to the Gulf war.

The affable Polish diplomat who runs the place, Jaroslaw Wojtara, still has the use of the ambassador's seven armoured 1987 Chevrolet Caprice.

"You feel like you're driving a truck," the 32-year-old diplomat laughed.

He uses it for official functions, but takes the Chevrolet Celebrity of a lesser official for his daily work. Mr. Wo-

jara removed the bulletproof glass from that one because he had trouble seeing through it.

Since Iraq has three of its own diplomats working in a similar interests section in Washington, the idea that the diplomats are actually Poles transplanted from Chicago pops upon on the heated Baghdad rumour mill.

About 30 mostly Western and Arab states broke ties with Baghdad when the Gulf war broke out, but 40 countries maintain outposts.

Diplomats at those embassies believe that despite the virulent Iraq against the United States, Baghdad's most fervent wish is for dialogue.

A recent diatribe against the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, criticised her for rejecting olive branches from

Iraq.

Iraq also notes that while many countries are negotiating lucrative oil and other contracts, U.S. businesses are losing out.

Senior Iraqi officials express outrage that the United States talks to North Korea and Serbia-Yugoslavia but not Iraq.

They acknowledge, however, the situation is likely to continue, since the U.S. objective of removing President Saddam Hussein appears remote.

"They refuse to enter a dialogue with the Iraqis at any level," Information Minister Youssef Hammadi told the Associated Press.

"Those people who planned to grab Iraq and install a puppet government in Baghdad are nervous and frustrated because they couldn't

achieve their political objectives."

Diplomats in Baghdad do not have much access to Iraqi officials.

Iraq upholds diplomatic protocol and sends cabinet ministers to national day dinners, the bedrock of diplomatic entertaining.

But their chairs are set separately and any diplomat with the gumption to wander over to talk to a minister is asked politely, but firmly, to leave.

The U.S. interests section is not really here to carry out such social or diplomatic functions, but to clear up leftover American business.

It has helped spring seven hapless Americans jailed for wandering over the Kuwaiti border at various times.

The four Polish diplomats have spent most of their time

shipping 40 tonnes of personal belongings home to the United States and trying to sell the contents of about 20 American embassy homes.

About 40 Americans married to Iraqis or with dual citizenship live here, but tend to avoid the building out of fear what the government might think.

Iraqis in general are not anti-American, but say they dislike the Clinton administration for leading the drive to continue the U.N. economic blockade that makes daily life increasingly desperate.

But the embassy has been left alone, even after last year's missile attack on the capital in retaliation for Iraq's alleged plot to assassinate former President Bush in Kuwait.

"I don't think it's risky for us," said Mr. Wojtara.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iranian family seeks Japanese compensation

TOKYO (AFP) — The family of an Iranian who died shortly after being arrested by Japanese police in June is suing the government for 48.4 million yen (\$480,000) in compensation, his Japanese wife said Friday.

Mehrpooran Arjang, 32, died from police brutality after being arrested, his wife said. An autopsy showed that he had suffered numerous internal injuries at the time of his death.

Mehrpooran was arrested overnight on June 20 in a park near Tokyo's Ueno train station with 46 other Iranians during a large-scale police operation involving anti-riot units. The Iranians were suspected of illegally staying in Japan and fraudulently using telephone cards. His family has filed a complaint against Tokyo municipality and is demanding compensation from the hospital where Mehrpooran was examined before his death, claiming that a proper diagnosis of his health had not been given.

Japanese police said that Mehrpooran had repeatedly banged his head against a metal seat in the paddy wagon that took him to police headquarters. The Lawyers Association of Foreign Criminal Cases meanwhile said it would submit complaints to the public prosecutor's office on Tuesday concerning the treatment of an Egyptian national and a Nigerian at a Tokyo detention centre. The two plaintiffs, whose identities were not revealed, were allegedly battered and humiliated by their guards, their lawyers said, adding that the cases were common and illustrated "the structural negligence of human rights at the Tokyo detention centre."

### Manila protests beating of Jeddah diplomat

MANILA (R) — The Philippines has protested to Saudi Arabia after a Saudi policeman punched and kicked a Filipino diplomat, the foreign office said on Thursday.

It said in a statement that Consul Anacleto Lacanilao was on official business at Jeddah airport, accompanied by his two sons, on Oct. 20 when they were stopped by an airport police officer. The officer shoved Mr. Lacanilao, told him to go to the police office at the airport and then kicked him in front of his sons before being restrained by other officers. The incident took place two days after an official visit to Saudi Arabia by Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

A note verbally sent to the Saudi Arabian embassy in Manila on Oct. 22 "expressed the displeasure of the Philippine government on this incident involving an official entitled to courtesy and protection by the host government." No one from the Saudi embassy was immediately available for comment. The incident occurred two days before three Filipino gunmen killed the two-month old son of a Saudi Arabian businessman as well as a maid and driver.

### Iraqi soldiers get taste for blood

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Some 20 Iraqi army volunteers clubbed a wolf to death, ripped its belly open with a knife and ate its raw flesh, pledging to sacrifice their blood and souls to President Saddam Hussein, in a scene shown on Iraqi Television. The volunteers, mobilised in the past few days to defend Iraq against U.S. forces, were on a training exercise at a military camp, the television said. The scene was shown on the youth channel run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday. The soldiers were among thousands who responded to an appeal on Oct. 9 to join the army, the television said. The recruitment drive followed Washington's decision to send military reinforcements to Kuwait in response to Iraqi troop movements near the emirate's border.

### PKK top envoy detained in Britain

LONDON (AFP) — The separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK)'s "roving ambassador" in Europe, Kani Yilmaz, is under arrest in London and will be expelled, the Home Office said Thursday.

A Home Office spokesman would not say when or to what country Britain planned to deport Mr. Yilmaz, who was detained late Wednesday at a tube station while on his way to address a meeting of British members of parliament. He was invited to Britain by Labour Deputy John Austin Walker. His arrest at Westminster station triggered a hostile demonstration by some 200 Kurds outside Paddington Green police station where Mr. Yilmaz was being held. The Home Office said Mr. Yilmaz was still in custody at Paddington Green pending his deportation. A spokesman for the Kurdistan Information Centre in London claimed the Turkish embassy had put pressure on Britain to crack down on Mr. Yilmaz.

"This situation was created because the Turkish embassy made it clear they were unhappy with his presence in London," the KIC said. Police said Mr. Yilmaz had been detained under the Immigration Act because his presence was "not conducive to public good." Mr. Yilmaz has visited Britain on three previous occasions, the last time in April.

### Sudan asks Egypt to extradite hijacker

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has called on Egyptian authorities to extradite a Sudanese national who hijacked an airliner to neighbouring Egypt last April, the daily Al Sudan Al Hadith reported.

Sudanese Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shiddo said Egypt should comply with a criminal extradition agreement in existence between the two countries and hand over Adel Mahjoub to stand trial in Sudan. Commenting on a report from Cairo that the man is presently being tried in Egypt, Mr. Shiddo admitted that the Egyptian authorities were acting in accordance with international laws but said that was not enough. Mahjoub, 26, was brought before the high state security court in Cairo on Oct. 18 and charged with carrying out the armed hijacking of a Sudan Airways plane on April 6. Egyptian judicial sources said. He is accused of threatening the pilots and forcing them to take the plane, which had been on an internal flight from Khartoum to Dongola in northern Sudan, to Luxor in Egypt.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30 ... Alice Au Pays Merveilles  
18:00 ... Le Vrai Des Moissons  
18:30 ... News in French  
19:00 ... Grands Galops  
19:15 ... News in Hebrew  
19:30 ... World Echo  
19:50 ... Black Beauty  
20:00 ... News in Arabic  
20:30 ... Bob  
21:10 ... Murder she Wrote  
22:00 ... News in English  
22:20 ... Feature film: "The Sound of the Silence"

**REPEATER TIMES**

19:25 ... Fajr  
19:50 ... (Sunrise) Fajr  
20:15 ... Fajr  
20:40 ... Fajr  
21:05 ... Fajr  
21:30 ... Fajr

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Switzerland, Tel. 610740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811265

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds variable occasionally becoming southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ... 14 / 27  
Aqaba ... 19 / 31  
Deserts ... 11 / 30  
Jordan Valley ... 18 / 32

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa ... 819220  
Dr. Shihab Abu Zayed ... 737962  
Dr. Ghazi Abdullah ... 842421  
Dr. Jamal Ibrahim ... 847351  
First pharmacy ... 661912  
Firdous pharmacy ... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ... 630555  
Naroukh pharmacy ... 628672  
Al Salam pharmacy ... 637539  
Yacoub pharmacy ... 660625  
Shmeisun pharmacy ... 627609  
Najih pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Mohammed Al Khalil ... 273099  
Akouds pharmacy ... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Randa Shabih ... 985711  
Khalil pharmacy ... 985417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ... 691111  
Civil Defence Emergency ... 630341  
Rescue Police ... 192, 82111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ... 617101  
Blood Bank ... 775121  
Highway Police ... 843402  
Traffic Police ... 896308  
Public Security Department ... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ... 630324  
Price Complaints ... 691176  
Water and Sewerage ... 897467  
Complaints ... 637111  
Amman Municipality ... 767111  
Telephone Information ... 637111  
Directory ... 121  
Concession Calls ... 810251  
Central Amman ... 637111  
Regroup ... 637111  
Abdali Telephone ... 637111  
Jordan Telephone ... 773111  
Ruhin Jordan ... 773111  
Water Authority ... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644241/2  
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisun ... 6647114  
Shmeisun Hospital ... 669131  
University Hospital ... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ... 664164/6  
Bulon, Al-Mulhij ... 771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ... 775112/6  
Arms, Marka ... 96161/115  
Queen Abla Hospital ... 842240/50  
Amal Hospital ... 547455  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa General Hospital ... 664372/3  
Zarqa Special Hospital ... 664372/3  
Ibn Sina Hospital ... 691905/60  
Al-Nina Modern Hospital ... 691905/60  
IBRID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ... 632755/55  
Greek Catholic Hospital ... 632727/5  
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital ... 632747/100  
Aqaba:  
Princess Haya Hospital ... 631411/11

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

04:30 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
09:15 ... Aqaba (RJ)  
10:00 ... Colombo (RJ)  
10:05 ... Dhahran, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:25 ... New Delhi, Dubai (RJ)  
12:30 ... Dhahran, Aqaba (RJ)  
12:40 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
12:50 ... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
13:30 ... London, Berlin (RJ)  
23:45 ... Frankfurt (add) (RJ)  
03:15 ... London, Aqaba (RJ)  
04:50 ... Brussels (add) (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

06:15 ... Beirut (ME)  
13:50 ... Vienna (OS)  
19:15 ... Dubai (EK)  
20:00 ... Sanas (IY)  
20:15 ... Cairo (MS)  
22:55 ... Damascus, Paris (AF)

06:20 ... Vienna (OS)

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

06:45 ... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:00 ... Amsterdam, Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:30 ... Casablanca, Madrid (RJ)  
11:30 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:30 ... Aqaba, Paris (RJ)  
16:15 ... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
12:45 ... Cairo (RJ)  
12:55 ... London (RJ)  
13:30 ... Madrid (RJ)  
19:45 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:00 ... Larnaca (RJ)  
20:30 ... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:00 ... Damascus (RJ)  
04:10 ... London (RJ)  
05:50 ... Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

06:15 ... Beirut (ME)  
13:50 ... Vienna (OS)  
19:15 ... Dubai (EK)  
20:00 ... Sanas (IY)  
20:15 ... Cairo (MS)  
22:55 ... Damascus, Paris (AF)

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ... 720/450  
Banana ... 680  
Banana (Mukammal) ... 620  
Cabbage ... 120/80  
Carrot ... 330/220  
Cauliflower ... 300/200  
Clementine ... 280/180  
Cucumbers (large) ... 200/150  
Cucumbers (small) ... 360/220  
Eggplant ... 320/200  
Garlic ... 1300/1000  
Lemon ... 290/200  
Marrow (large) ... 190/100  
Marrow (small) ... 340/280  
Olive (green) ... 450/300  
Onion (green) ... 500/300  
Onion (dry) ... 440/300  
Orange ... 600/500  
Pepper (hot) ... 520/320  
Pepper (sweet) ... 340/240  
Potato ... 480/320  
Spinach ... 280/200  
Tomato ... 400/200  
String beans ... 780/450

15:45 ... Rome, Larnaca (AZ)  
18:15 ... Dubai (EK)  
19:00 ... Sanas (IY)  
19:20 ... Cairo (MS)  
19:30 ... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
23:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)

06:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)

**HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

مكتبة من الأصيل



## Petra news agency interviews Israeli official, journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — The official Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday published interviews with an Israeli official and journalist.

The agency quoted Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal as saying the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is a historic step which will not only benefit the two nations but also the entire region.

Mr. Shahal's statement was made on Wednesday during the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The Israeli official said comprehensive peace will be achieved soon, and he said he hoped that similar agreements with Syria and Lebanon will be reached in 1995.

Mr. Shahal lauded the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Hussein, saying that the King receives the full admiration of the people in the region and worldwide.

The agency also quoted a correspondent of the Israeli daily Maariv as saying that the peace treaty serves as a pillar for building a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, and will give momentum to the peace process on other tracks.

The Israeli journalist said the vast majority of the Israeli people support the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and believe that peace between the two nations will be genuine.

The journalist also said

the geographical proximity between Jordan and Israel will contribute positively to the two nations.

Jordanian exports to Europe can utilise Israel as a crossing point, and Israeli products can utilise Jordan as a crossing point to the neighbouring countries, he said.

But he added, the form and shape of cooperation will take some time.

Head of the Israeli Druze court, Na'cem Hainou, told Petra that the treaty heralds a new era for the Middle East region. He congratulated King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whom he described as the peace makers.

## Parliament committees elect officials

### Kabariti to head foreign affairs, Abul Ragheb maintains finance, and judiciary to vote today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament met Thursday, as did several other committees, and elected former Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti as chairman of the committee.

The members of the committee also elected Jamal Saraireh as rapporteur.

Other House committees which met to elect chairmen and rapporteurs included the Finance Committee which re-elected Ali Hagi Ragheb as chairman and elected Samir Habashneh as rapporteur.

The Administrative Committee elected Mohammed Odeh Njadat as its chairman and Ahmad Kasasbeh as rapporteur.

The Roral Areas and Badia Affairs Committee elected Khalid Ajameh as chairman and Abdul Hafeth Shakhaneh as rapporteur.

The Energy and Water Strategy Committee elected Ahd Mousa Nahar as chairman and Ahmad Abu Jamous as rapporteur.

The Public Freedoms Committee elected Jamal Khreisha as its chairman and Muflih Rheimi as rapporteur.

The Judiciary Committee will meet today following the House session, to elect a chairman and rapporteur.

The Irrigation and Water Committee, the Health and Environment Committee, the

Education Committee and the Energy Water Strategy Committee will meet Sunday to elect their respective chairmen and rapporteurs.

The Lower House of Parliament meets today to discuss its reply to the speech from the Throne which His Majesty King Hussein delivered on Oct. 22 upon opening the Parliament's second ordinary session.

Following endorsement of the reply, the House will elect a delegation headed by the House speaker to present the reply to the King.

#### Committee members

The Finance Committee: Abdul Hafeth Shakhaneh, Ali Hagi Ragheb, Samir Habashneh, Munir Sobar, Ali Shatti, Ahd Mousa Nahar, Samir Kawa, Abdullah Akaleh, Badr Riati, Deeb Abdullah, Mohammad Daoudieh, Deif Alah Momani, Deeb Anis, Mansour Ben Tarif, Saleh Irshaidat, Samir Farah, Bassam Haddad, Mohammad Hneiti, Hashem Dahhas and Nader Abul Shaar.

The Judiciary Committee: Mustafa Shneikat, Ibrahim Zeid Kilani, Awad Khleifat, Abdul Baqi Jammo, Abdul Aziz Jahr, Ibrahim Shihdeh, Abdullah Akhu Irshaidat, Ahmad Kofahi, Toujan Faisal, Suleiman Saad, Hamam Said, Abdul Munim Abu Zant, Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, Fawzi Toimeh,

Ahmad Qudah, Mahmoud Hweimel, Muflih Rheimi, Abdul Hadi Majali, Hani Hijazin, Abdul Rahim Akour, Abdul Karim Doughmi, Hatem Ghazawi, Khalid Abdul Nahi and Salem Zawaideh.

The Administrative Committee: Mohammed Odeh Njadat, Nader Dheirat, Fayyad Jarrar, Ahmad Kasasbeh, Talal Obeidat and Ibrahim Samara.

The Foreign Affairs Committee: Muflih Lawzi, Abdul Karim Kabariti, Jamal Saraireh, Abdullah Ensour, Awar Hadid, Fawwaz Zu'hi, Nazih Ammarin, Mohammad Al Haj, Hamad Abu Jamous, Aref Bataioeh, Mohammad Thweih, Khalil Haddadin, Hamzeh Mansour, Bassam Omoush, Saleh Sha'awatah, Jamil Oushoush, Abdul Magid Azzam, Taher Hahabeh, Rateb Saud, Abdul Magid Aqtash, Tawfiq Kreishao, and Farah Rabadi.

The Public Freedoms Committee: Muflih Rheimi, Abdul Karim Kabariti, Mohammad Odeh Njadat, Muflih Lawzi, Fawwaz Zu'hi, Jamal Khreisha, Abdul Aziz Jahr, Ali Shatti, Ibrahim Shihdeh, Badr Riati, Abdullah Akhu Irshaidat, Khalil Haddadin, Suleiman Saad, Abdul Rahim Akour, Abdul Munim Abu Zant, Bassam Omoush, Hamzeh Mansour, Abdullah Akaleh,

Mahmond Hweimel, Taha Hahabeh, Bassam Haddadin, Abdul Karim Doughmi, Abdul Magid Azzam, Saleh Irshaidat, Fawzi Toimeh, Ahd Mousa Nahar, Ahmad Kasasbeh, Mohammad Hneiti, Talal Obeidat, Ibrahim Samara, Nawwaf Qadi, Mahmoud Hweimel, Samir Habashneh, Mansour Ben Tarif, Hatem Ghazawi, Fawzi Toimeh, Fayyad Jarrar, Salem Zawaideh, Bassam Haddadin, Mohammad Abu Aleem, Tawfiq Kreishan and Farah Rabadi.

The Irrigation and Water Committee: Khalid Abdul Nahi, Mustafa Shneikat, Nader Dheirat, Muflih Lawzi, Jamil Oushoush, Nazih Ammarin, Ali Al Shatti, Eid Mousa Nahar, Ahmad Kasasbeh, Mohammad Thweih, Khalil Haddadin, Ahmad Kofahi, Theeb Abdullah Fayyad Jarrar, Suleiman Saad, Deeb Anis, Hamad Abu Jamous, Munir Sobar, Saleh Sha'awatah, Abdul Karim Doughmi, Ahmad Kasasbeh, and Badr Riati.

The Health and Environment Committee: Jamil Oushoush, Nazih Ammarin, Mustafa Shneikat, Jamal Saraireh, Toujan Faisal, Aref Bataioeh, Deeb Abdullah, Ahmad Qudah, Anwar Hadid, Abdul Magid Azzam, Nader Abu Shaar, Hani Hijazin, Abdul Raouf Rawahdeh, and Abdul Hafeth Shakhaneh.

The Education Committee: Awad Khleifat, Ibrahim Zeid Kilani, Jamal Saraireh, Nader Dheirat, Mohammad Ahmad Al Haj, Abdul Karim Kabariti, Mohammad Kofahi,

Toujan Faisal, Deif Allah Moumani, Mohammad Oweidah, Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, Samir Kawa, Saleh Irshaidat, Fawzi Toimeh, Ahd Mousa Nahar, Muflih Rheimi, Taha Hahabeh, Rateb Saud, Bassam Omoush, Ahmad Qudah, Farah Rabadi, Abdul Raouf Rawahdeh.

The Palestine and the Occupied Territories Committee: Anwar Hadid, Abdul Aziz Jahr, Ibrahim Shihdeh, Mohammad Thweih, Khalil Haddadin, Ahmad Kofahi, Theeb Abdullah Fayyad Jarrar, Suleiman Saad, Deeb Anis, Hamad Abu Jamous, Munir Sobar, Saleh Sha'awatah, Abdul Karim Doughmi, Ahmad Kasasbeh, and Badr Riati.

The Roral Areas and Badia Affairs Committee: Jamal Khreisha, Abdul Hafeth Shakhaneh, Mohammad Odeh Njadat, Nawaf Qadi, Khalid Abdul Ghani, Ibrahim Zeid Kilani, Mohammad Adoudh Zaben and Tawfiq Kreishan.

The Energy and Water Strategy Committee: Ali Abu Ragheb, Munir Sobar, Fawwaz Zu'hi, Muflih Lawzi, Hamad Abu Jamous, Eid Mousa Nahar, Samir Kawa, Saleh Irshaidat, Ahmad Kasasbeh, Maosour Ben Tarif, Samir Habashneh, Mohammad Hneiti, Nader Abu Shaar, Hatem Ghazawi, and Mohammad Daoudieh.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

\* Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Il Ladro Di Bambini" (Stolen Children) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. (all proceeds to go to the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College).

### PIANO RECITAL

\* Piano recital by Italian Maestro Antonio Sardi De Letto at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### PLAY

\* Play for children (in Arabic) entitled "Hakaya Abu Al Ajab" (Strange Stories) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

### FILMS

\* Polish film entitled "The Sex Mission" (a

science fiction comedy) at Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m.

\* Video film entitled "The Killing Fields" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

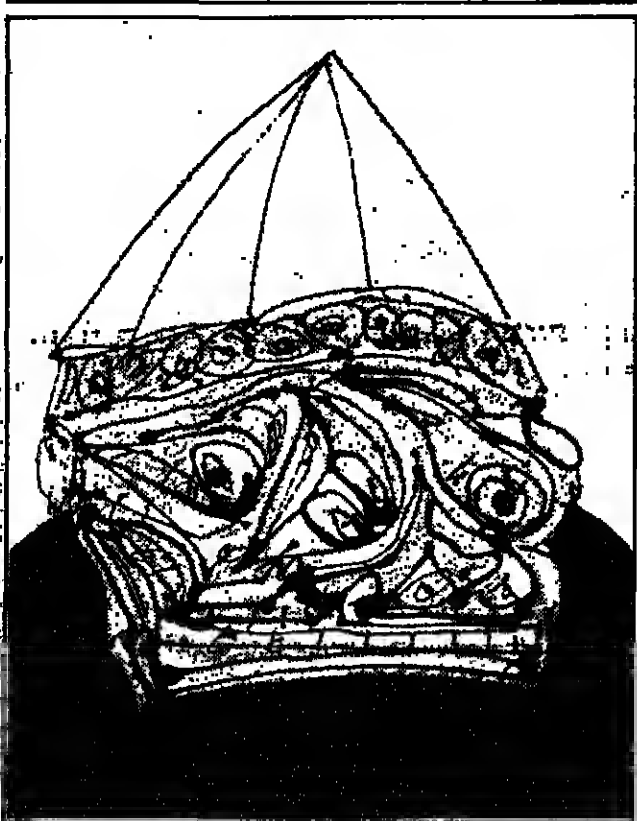
### LECTURE

\* Lecture in Arabic entitled "University and Education" by Dr. Jaber Asfour of Egypt at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Exhibition of textiles artist and patchwork by Tullikki Haddadin at the Gallery located at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

\* Art exhibition by Ahmad Subaih at Baladna Art Gallery.



Antonio Saura's "Galeria de America, 1982"

## Exploring a gamut of eclectic pursuits

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Picasso has gone, and Goya entered history books long before him, but the activity of these and other Spanish artists of their times have left behind one of contemporary Europe's more vital art movements.

To many of us, the mention of their native land conjures up vivid images of matadors, ancient Moorish palaces and nights filled with the passions of flamenco.

But the work of some 40 contemporary Spanish artists on display at Jordan's National Gallery of Fine Arts suggest that the modern cultural circles of Andalusia offer a much less standard variety of themes and motifs, as they explore a gamut of eclectic and offbeat pursuits.

There is the play on the campiness of 1930's American private eye films in Eduardo Arroyo's "All the City is Talking About It," the pointedly bizarre in Fernando Belver's "Dwarf Wearing a Glove," and the science-fiction-style metallurgy of "Helmet," a sculpture by Amadeo Gabino.

And then there are the grotesque, nightmarish faces of Antonio Saura's "Gallery

of America," and the odd fancy of "The Purple Discourse," a series of sketches by Jose Hernandez.

In one of the sketches, rubble flies in all directions around the steeple of a village church, apparently due to the excavations of a giant crash which lurks behind it.

In seeing the exploration of these and the other artists on display in the exhibit, perhaps Jordanians will be able to place a tenuous finger on the pulse of a culture which, more than almost any other in Europe, holds deep kinship with those of the Arab World.

Spain's role as an intellectual and artistic font of the Islamic world was irrevocably extinguished more than 500 years ago. But deep similarities in cultural traditions, as well as the temperaments, and physical traits of the peoples themselves, have not completely eroded with time's passage.

The exhibition, entitled "Spanish Artists in Graphics and Sculpture," and held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, began on Oct. 17 and will last until the end of this month.

Save water  
every drop  
counts...!

## Workshop participants approve recommendations to save Petra

By Jennifer Hamarneh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A workshop designed to review a management plan for the Petra National Park (PNP) concluded here Thursday with detailed recommendations on how to put the plan into action, including the creation of an authority for the management of the PNP.

As patron and honorary chairperson of the Petra National Trust (PNT), Her Majesty Queen Noor had, in 1990, requested assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Federico Mayor in preparing the management plan and outlining therein the major problems "threatening the integrity" of this site.

The result of that assistance was the management plan for the Petra National Park prepared and submitted by Said Zulficar, director of Cultural Heritage Division, UNESCO headquarters, and two other specialists.

The ancient city of Petra was declared a World Heritage Site, listed among approximately 300 sites worldwide.

The UNESCO team, working in cooperation with the Petra National Trust and the Ministry of Tourism, was able to evaluate the principal threats to the area from a combination of cultural, socio-economic and environmental factors.

The main problems, according to UNESCO, are: management deficiency; inappropriate location of hotels; erosion; lack of control of visitors' circulation; spread of commercial activities; information in general; ticketing policies.

At the end of the four-day workshop, the participants agreed on a set of recommendations which fell under the following categories: conservation of the physical heritage; flood protection and water erosion control; tourism; physical planning; park management; rural development infrastructure; and park management structure.

For UNESCO, getting the Jordanian government's approval of the management plan is essential in guaranteeing that it will be swiftly implemented. One UNESCO official said that if the park management structure is approved as well as the recommendations on zoning, then the management has a chance at success.

Among the recommendations is that the suggested authority for the management of the Petra National Park have financial autonomy and be the body responsible for the management of the park, with a leading role in the development of the immediate adjacent buffer zone.

With regard to water erosion control, the participants recommended that grazing be prohibited on the plateaus above the Siq and other sensitive areas to avoid the destruction of vegetation and topsoil erosion. This, said the recommendations, should be accompanied by seeding and planting of indigenous selected trees and shrubs.

In the area of tourism interests, which tend to conflict seriously with the interests of conservationists, stressed Dr. Zulficar, the participants recommended that the existing management policy, which is to adjust the site to tourist demand, should be reversed, and a tourism marketing study should be carried out as soon as possible for better determination of tourism targets and products and tour operators' strategies.

They also recommended that the "carrying capacity" be continuously monitored and adjusted to site conditions. For now they suggest limiting groups to a maximum of 20 persons along the main circuits of the ancient city, and on other foot trails, they said, groups should be smaller.

The recommendations pointed out that the figure proposed in the management plan of 2,000 to 2,400 visitors per day entering the Siq is a theoretical figure, assuming a regular distribution of visitors throughout the day. What is important, agreed the participants, is to limit the flow of visitors to five to six groups of up to 20 persons per half hour, whatever the mode of transportation.

The recommendations also tackled visitor circulation inside the site. They said one-way horse traffic is to be tested through the site to avoid congestion, a limited number of carriages is necessary for handicapped people and the elderly, buses or other vehicles should not be allowed to enter the sanctuary area, schools should book visits in such a way as to avoid peak periods, a horse ride should be optional (optional was underscored), the number of horses should not be allowed to exceed 350 and, in the long term, solutions should be found for eliminating horses from the Siq.

The participants recommended also that commercial outlets and services be concentrated as much as possible at the entrance and exit of the site, and only the existing restaurant and those shops and cafes belonging to the few original licence-holders be permitted inside the site.

Under the category of physical planning, the participants pointed to land ownership and agreed that the Bedu tribe of the Petra area will have their land registered in their names but with conditions such as: developments must be restricted to small

touristic vendors, there must be no vertical or horizontal expansion on existing buildings and no hotel development of any sort, and a different site should be provided for future expansion.

The recommendations said that, in the Beida area, the Amarin, another clan, should stop building activities. They added that it was mentioned that some of their land had been sold to hotel developers and that the dangers of development in this area, with regard to antiquities and the eco-system, is obvious.

With regard to zoning, the recommendations said land-use planning is urgent and calls for immediate action. Land which is registered in the name of the local people should not be sold for hotel development.

During the closing session Thursday, at which the recommendations were read out in their entirety, Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan intervened at several points to state that his ministry had already taken steps in some of the areas related to the recommendations. Dr. Adwan told the participants that the ministry would prefer to eliminate horses from the Siq area as soon as possible and that the horses be used in other areas.

He also said that the ministry had already taken a decision to limit the daily number

of visitors to Petra in the interim (that is, until systems are installed to cope with larger numbers) to 1,500 people. The minister announced that the Um Sayhoun area, where their Bedu have resided, would become a tourist village, complete with all amenities and that the Bedu would be relocated to another area and given deeds to the areas they had resided in.

On the mushrooming of unsightly and inappropriately located hotels, Dr. Adwan emphasised that building permits for these structures were not issued during his tenure as minister of tourism. He added that his ministry has halted expansion of villages in the Wadi Musa area.

All participants agreed on the necessity to limit new hotels. Conservation should take precedence, the recommendations said, over development considerations in the management of the park.

Dr. Zulficar's main worry in seeing that the two-year work on preparing the management plan and these last four days of intensive workshops is that the opposing interests of those who seek to protect and preserve Petra, and those of the tourism industry, which sees the potential for a boom business in commercialising the fragile site could hit loggerheads without a concerted effort to cooperate.

## 'Alzheimer's attacks 60% of elderly dementia sufferers'

By Rima Cortbawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alzheimer's disease, characterised by overall memory failure and lack of spontaneous activity, "attacks 60 per cent of the ageing population who suffer from dementia," according to Marina Hadidi, a neurologist in private practice here.

In her account to the Jordan Times on recent discoveries about this debilitating disease, Dr. Hadidi explained that dementia is a global loss of "acquired" intellectual abilities or any conditions of mental deterioration marked by memory disorders, personality changes, impaired reasoning, and other symptoms.

So, unlike mental retardation, in which development of abilities proceeds at an unusually slow rate, dementia affects perfectly normal individuals. "In fact, 5-7 per cent of the over 65-year-old individuals in any society develop a moderate to severe degree of dementia," said Dr. Hadidi.

Treatable forms of de-

mential, which attack only 5 per cent of demented individuals, can affect a person's life at any adult age, according to Dr. Hadidi. These include depression (which manifests itself as "false" dementia as it portrays similar symptoms), brain tumours, subdural haematoma, thyroid gland and other deficiencies in the body.

About 20 per cent of the forms of dementia are caused by untreatable condition related to decreased cerebral blood flow, usually prevalent in old age, when loss of brain cells results from deficient blood supply.

"This can be prevented only at the early stages of the disease simply using drugs that increase cerebral blood flow and fight thrombosis (blood clotting) and embolism blockage due to accumulations of particles from the heart and large vessels," Dr. Hadidi said.

The remaining 15 per cent of demented individuals suffers from a newly-recognised form of dementia called Lewy body disease, according to U.S. statistics.

Unfortunately, however,

the prime cause of Alzheimer's disease remains unknown "and the previously accepted hypothesis that the presence of aluminium in the brain is responsible for the disease has recently been medically discredited," said Dr. Hadidi.

Research indicates the probability that biochemical deficiencies due to lower levels of a certain enzyme in the body result in amyloid (protein) and aluminium accumulations in the brain. "Nowadays studies are directed in the biochemical and genetic fields towards identifying the deficient enzyme and the genes responsible for this abnormality," Dr. Hadidi said.

It has not been medically confirmed yet, that contraction of the disease is hereditary, "but statistics show that the risks are higher for people in whose families several affected members from different generations are present. Also statistically, when there is this family trend, Alzheimer's disease starts at an earlier age — in the 50s rather than the 60s," Dr. Hadidi said.

Recent methods to detect this disease, so far only

available in the U.S., involve examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid, which can be obtained from the patient's back. Studies, according to Dr. Hadidi, show excessive amounts of amyloid precursor protein and increased amounts of protein glutamine synthetase (enzyme) in the cerebro-spinal fluid of patients with early symptoms of Alzheimer's dementia.

"Also, recent U.S. studies indicated that Alzheimer patients have different dimensions of the temporal lobe (an area of the brain concerned with speech and expression) which can be observed using a C.T. scan," said Dr. Hadidi.

Worldwide, diagnosis relies on observation of patients' behaviour and elimination of other causes of dementia, which normally manifest themselves in the C.T. scan, or are revealed through blood tests such as brain atrophies, tumours, subdural haematoma, hydrocephalus and infarctions, etc.

In attempting to treat Alzheimer's biochemically, modern techniques are geared towards replacement of or hindering the

breakdown of acetylcholine, which is responsible for chemical transmissions between nerve cells in the brain.

This chemical becomes deficient as a result of Alzheimer's disease and when broken down by the acetylcholine esterase enzyme, intracellular chemical transmission becomes substantially less, according to Dr. Hadidi.

The most recently developed drug tacrine hydrochloride under the trade name of Cognex, which was granted U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval in the U.S. in Oct. 93, and is currently under registration in the U.K., has, according to statistics, shown significant improvement in some patients as its action is focused inhibition of acetylcholine esterase.

"Normally effects of this drug are noticed any time between three to 30 weeks of administration," said Dr. Hadidi.

Long term effects of the drug cannot be estimated at this early stage, but new drugs are currently under trial.

"These attempts are concerned with preventing acetylcholine-releasing cells from dying by using chemicals like nerve growth factor (NGF). Methods of replacing the depleting amounts of acetylcholine have not been successful," Dr. Hadidi said.

Newly obtained statistical data show that one of this disease's preventive factors involve "moderate smoking (i.e. under a pack per day), even if only periodic, especially in people with higher education," said Dr. Hadidi, "but for heavy smokers, no such prevention is secured."

Also people suffering from autoimmune diseases such as arthritis and inflammatory bowel syndrome are less likely to suffer from Alzheimer, according to Dr. Hadidi.

"So far, all information about Alzheimer's disease, which was discovered in 1907, comes from statistical, biochemical and genetic studies. We hope that these will render more effective means of conquering such a destructive illness in the near future," Dr. Hadidi concluded.



## Reynolds regrets Britain's no show at Irish peace forum

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said Friday he did not feel snubbed by a British decision to turn down an invitation to a landmark Irish peace forum which will be attended by Republican leader Gerry Adams.

The National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation is being hailed as a symbolic platform because, for the first time, Sinn Féin, the IRA's political arm, will sit alongside mainstream Irish politicians in an all-Ireland democratic institution.

But Britain and Northern Irish Protestant politicians were out at the inauguration which took place in Dublin Friday.

"I do not regard it as a snub, but only they (the British government) can explain why they are here," said Prime Minister Albert Reynolds on arrival at the forum. He told reporters it was "rather unfortunate" there was no British presence.

Dick Spring, Ireland's deputy prime minister, said before the start he regretted British Ambassador David Blatherwick would not be at the inauguration in Dublin Castle, the seat of British power when London ruled

Ireland until 1922.

Mr. Spring said on Irish Radio he had also been told that another leading British representative, Conservative Party member of parliament, Peter Temple-Morris, would not attend.

Mr. Temple-Morris, co-chairman of an Anglo-Irish inter-parliamentary body which groups legislators from London and Dublin, played a very important role in Anglo-Irish relations in the past, said Mr. Spring, adding he regretted his absence.

"Obviously, they (Britain) are a sovereign government and they make their own decisions. But I think it is unfortunate and they make their own decisions. But I think it is unfortunate and I would far prefer if the British-Irish parliamentary tier was represented, and indeed the British government was represented, at the forum this morning."

The forum is being launched by the Irish government as its latest step in trying to bridge divisions which have created decades of violence in British-ruled Northern Ireland. But some critics have dismissed it as a nationalist talking shop.

Among foreign ambassadors to accept invitations to

the forum was United States envoy Jean Kennedy Smith, a sister of President John Kennedy.

She commented: "I am very pleased to be here. I think it is a wonderful opportunity. I am delighted with the peace process, but it is just the beginning."

Pro-British politicians in Northern Ireland decided to boycott it, denouncing it as an example of Dublin interference.

Protestant "Unionist" representatives, who support the province's union with Britain, are angry too at the presence of Sinn Féin at the same table as other constitutional Irish political parties.

The main Protestant political parties still harbour doubts about the permanence of a ceasefire proclaimed by the Irish Republican Army on Sept. 1.

In an address to the forum, Mr. Adams appealed to the Protestants to participate.

"I appeal to them to join us in the search for a settlement acceptable to all of the Irish people, a settlement which will leave conflict behind us," he said, adding: "The Unionists have as much right to the Island of Ireland as we have."

Britain has not yet started planned exploratory talks with Sinn Féin and political analysts in Dublin said that might be a factor in the decision not to attend Friday's forum launch.

Around 300 diplomats, church and state representatives have been invited to the launch, which will last two hours.

Mr. Adams Thursday accused the British government of trying to stall the Northern Ireland peace process and avoid constitutional change, following the cessation of paramilitary violence.

The government was, said Mr. Adams, "consistently trying to reduce the momentum of the peace process, to deflate its potential, to avoid the political and constitutional change which is fundamental to a lasting peace settlement."

And he added: "(British Prime Minister) John Major's Irish policy is one of crisis management."

Mr. Adams was speaking at a peace rally of Sinn Féin, the paramilitary Irish Republican Army's political wing, staged in Dublin's Mansion House, official residence of the city's Lord Mayor.

## Cambodia denies hostage death reports

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia on Friday denied reports that the three Western hostages kidnapped by Khmer Rouge guerrillas three months ago had been killed by their captors and suggested they may have been moved to another zone.

A Cambodian Defence Ministry statement said troops were searching the Phnom Vour (Vine Mountain) area, where the three were last spotted a month ago, to investigate reports that their bodies had been buried there.

The statement rebuked a government general for telling reporters and diplomats in Kampong province that the hostages were dead, saying the general "is not the spokesman" of the Defence Ministry or the general staff.

Diplomats following the affair in Phnom Penh reserved judgment on the latest news, saying reports that the three tourists had been killed, while unconfirmed, were credible.

Only if the hostages were found alive or if their remains were recovered and identified could the affair be put to rest, the diplomats said.

Australian David Wilson, 29, Briton Mark Slater, 28, and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, were seized when guerrillas ambushed a train in Kampong province July 26, killing 13 people.

The Australian, British and French ambassadors held an emergency meeting after the Defence Ministry statement was released and were expected to press for high-level talks with Cambodian government officials.

According to the statement, the ministry had received information that the three hostages had crossed Route 3, moving north about Oct. 3.

"Many civilians living in the vicinity have seen the three foreign hostages moving and reported to the military authority in the province," it said.

Defence Ministry officials, asked to give details of the sightings or explain why the information surfaced only Friday, said they had nothing to add to the statement.

There were similar sightings of an Australian woman and two British men kidnapped



Families of Khmer Rouge guerrillas wait for news of their husbands after the guerrilla main camp in the Phnom Vour was raided by government troops. Only a few of the some 200 Khmer Rouge in the stronghold have not defected to the government side, including their leader General Paet (AFP photo)

in southern Cambodia in April but, when their remains were found, authorities concluded they had been murdered shortly after their disappearance.

The Defence Ministry statement, apparently responding to international criticism, said civilian and military officials had "done their best to solve this hostage problem," which it blamed solely on the Khmer Rouge and their shadowy leader, Pol Pot.

Late Thursday, a spokeswoman for co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh issued a statement saying the prince had received information that, as of noon, the hostages were still alive.

Government generals in Kampong said earlier that they had been killed on Sept. 27 or 28 as the government mounted a major offensive against the Khmer Rouge stronghold.

Meanwhile, a Cambodian military court found nine Thais guilty Friday of involvement in a failed July coup but they walked free after the judge gave them suspended sentences.

Former Secretary of State for the Interior Sin Sen, one of two Cambodians also on trial on conspiracy and weapons charges, was jailed for 18 years by the judge, General Mai Thol.

The two alleged ringleaders of the July 2 power grab,

Prince Norodom Chakrapong and ex-Interior Minister Sin Soog, were convicted in absentia and each sentenced to 20 years.

Prince Chakrapong was allowed to fly out of the country on July 3 following the intervention of his father, King Norodom Sihanouk. Mr. Sin Soog escaped from detention in September.

The second Cambodian defendant present in court, former Defence Department Police Chief Tea Choy, escaped with a suspended sentence of five years.

All nine Thais pleaded not guilty but one allegedly confessed to investigators that he was sent to Cambodia by a Thai communications company and ordered to cut wires during the coup attempt.

He was one of three to receive suspended sentence of five years while their compatriots were each given suspended terms of three years. All were immediately released.

The three charges against them were conspiracy to overthrow the government, carrying and transporting illegal weapons and "betrayal against the revolution" — a law enacted by the former Communist government installed by Vietnamese invaders in 1979.

The nine Thais arrived back in Thailand Friday only hours after the court gave them suspended sentences.

## Chaos, power struggles deepen in Poland

WARSAW (R) — Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak faced divisions in his left-wing coalition Friday and was reeling from a new attack by President Lech Walesa in a deepening power struggle.

The government was thrown into chaos Thursday by the resignation of Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski, one of three independent ministers nominated by Mr. Walesa, after a cabinet colleague said he was illegally earning two salaries.

Hours later, Mr. Walesa launched a fierce attack on the government, accusing it of allowing economic reforms to drift. Poland, he said, needed a powerful presidency which would give it a strong hand to force through reforms.

Officials of all political colours said they were worried by the conflict between Mr. Walesa and the government and feared Mr. Olechowski's resignation would deepen the political chaos.

"Olechowski's resignation means big complications for the coalition. It will also cause amazement and a lack of understanding abroad," said Jozef Oleksy, speaker of the lower house of parliament.

"It is not good for Poland. Foreign policy needs stability. It will have a bad impact on international opinion," said Bronislaw Geremek, an



Andrzej Olechowski

opposition leader who is head of parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission.

The crisis is the latest Mr. Pawlak has faced in a year in office since pulling together a coalition of two parties with roots in Communist times.

Rifts in the ranks have appeared many times but all have so far been minimised.

Mr. Pawlak has not said if he will accept the resignation

of Mr. Olechowski, who is well respected abroad and has been a star in the generally lacklustre coalition. Foreign diplomats in Warsaw said they expected him to reject it.

Mr. Pawlak's acceptance could further irritate Mr. Walesa, who is Mr. Olechowski's sponsor and has the power to show his wrath by vetoing government legislation.

## Aristide will step down next year

WASHINGTON (R) — Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said in a taped television interview Friday that he still plans to step down next year.

In an interview on NBC Television's Today programme, Mr. Aristide was asked if he had reconsidered his pledge to leave office after his term ends next year.

"No, I don't want that. I don't want it," he responded. "My responsibility is to build with my people and the international community a state of law through reconciliation, paving the way for elections," he said.

After three years in exile in Washington before he recently returned to Haiti under the protection of U.S. forces and the departure of military rulers who had ousted him, Mr. Aristide said he feels safe in his native country.

"I am, I am, and thanks to my people, thanks to the international community, thanks to President Bill Clinton for his leadership, I am safe," he said.

Mr. Aristide is staying in the presidential palace and has not returned to his own home, he said, because of large crowds in the streets, he said, adding they are "so happy to see their president and I prefer to wait."

Meanwhile, the first 365 recruits of Haiti's new police force are learning from U.S. and Canadian instructors to refrain from brutality and respect human dignity under the restored democracy.

## Overseas successes 'boost Clinton' in California

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Overseas successes have helped boost President Bill Clinton's popularity in California, where half of the public now approve of his performance, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The survey by the Independent Field Poll found that 50 per cent of Californians approved of Clinton's performance as president, compared to 38 per cent who disapproved.

Some 35 per cent viewed his job performance as "very good" or "good," up from 32 per cent in a similar poll in September, the poll said.

Pollsters said Mr. Clinton's recent foreign policy successes had helped lift his popularity in California.

"Most of the bounce he is getting is in the foreign policy area... from his foreign policy achievements in Haiti and Kuwait," said field poll director Mark Dicanillo.

Mr. Clinton quickly dispatched U.S. forces to the Middle East this month after reports that Iraqi troops had advanced towards the Kuwait border.

The Clinton administration also brokered an accord allowing ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return to Haiti.

Fifty-two per cent of those polled said they approved of Mr. Clinton's handling of foreign policy compared to 41 per cent who disapproved.

## Ghali to visit Caucasus amid uneasy peace

MOSCOW (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali begins a three-nation tour of the troubled Transcaucasus Saturday amid Russian efforts to limit the United Nations' room for manoeuvre in the region.

The visit to Azerbaijan, Georgia and finally Armenia is Dr. Ghali's first since the republics gained independence with the collapse of the Soviet Union three years ago.

But the United Nations already has a substantial presence in the region through aid operations set up to cope with over a million refugees from the Caucasus' myriad conflicts.

While the aim of Dr. Ghali's visit is vague, the main issue on the agenda will be the tangled question of peacekeeping in the Caucasus.

After running out of patience for a U.N. peacekeeping operation to be established in Georgia's breakaway Republic of Abkhazia, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze reluctantly agreed to a 3,000-strong Russian force which was deployed last June alongside 136 U.N. military observers.

But the Russian operation, ostensibly set up to aid the return of 250,000 Georgian refugees who fled the territory after it fell to Abkhazian separatist forces in September 1993, has been beset by controversy.

The U.N.-sanctioned Russian force, which is meant to patrol a 24-kilometre-wide "security zone" between Georgia and rebel Abkhazia, failed to prevent a series of violent incidents, including

the torching of three villages inside the zone.

"You recognise the Russian empire if you recognise Russia's peacekeeping efforts in the Caucasus," claimed one diplomat.

He said Russia's desire to head up peacekeeping operations in its former colonies broke a long-held U.N. custom not to include soldiers from a neighbouring country in any peacekeeping operation.

But while the recent visit to Georgia by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, briefly raised hopes of an international peacekeeping force in Abkhazia, few Georgian officials believe it will ever materialise.

"I hope to God (for a U.N. force), but beyond that?" shrugged Jaba Loseliani, the Georgian warlord in charge of negotiations with Abkhazia.

The Russian peacekeeping operation in Georgia has been watched closely by Armenia and Azerbaijan, which have fought a six-year war over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A Russian-backed ceasefire has held for six months in the territory, which is populated by an Armenian majority, but located inside Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev, desperate to save off Russian retrenchment in the oil-rich republic, has held out for an international peacekeeping force for Karabakh despite strong pressure from Russia to have its own troops deployed in the disputed territory.

## Pakistan violence toll mounts to 13

KARACHI (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen shot dead three policemen, including an officer, here Friday, raising the death toll in two days of violence to 13, police said.

They said the assailants opened fire on a police van during investigations on a report of armed robbery in a congested district of central Karachi.

Shooting was also reported elsewhere in the city but details were not immediately

available. This southern port city has been rocked by a wave of sectarian and factional violence in which more than 50 people have been killed in the past two days, according to hospital reports.

Law enforcement agencies have been under increased attack this year and police statistics show that 53 policemen, including 18 senior officers, have been killed since January.

Officials said violence erupted after police Thursday discovered two bodies bearing torture marks. One victim was identified as an activist of the militant Shiite Muslim group, Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan, they said.

As tension mounted unidentified gunmen overnight shot dead three people, including a youth considered close to the extremist Sunni Muslim organisation Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP).

## Republicans launch \$2m TV ad campaign

WASHINGTON (R) — Republicans launched a \$2 million television blitz against the Democrats Thursday as the U.S. election campaign neared its final week, but a wary White House hustled to beat its foes to the punch.

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour outlined a television advertising campaign accusing President Bill Clinton's party of lying, double-talk and plans to cut politically touchy social security pension spending.

The ads will air in over 25 states. "As in every election for years, the Democrats have cranked up the 'big lie' campaign, falsely claiming Republicans want to cut social security, would devastate Medicare and the usual scare tactics," Mr. Barbour said at a news conference.

"The big lie campaign rings especially hollow this time," he said. But with Mr. Clinton attending to high-profile peace diplomacy in the Middle East, the White House organised a pre-emptive strike against his political foes, calling reporters to a briefing one hour before the Republican news conference.

The dueling spin-control efforts underscored the bitter political combat and high stakes involved in the Nov. 8 state and congressional elections, in which the surging Republicans are challenging

Democratic control of both houses of Congress.

All 435 seats are at stake in the House of Representatives where Republicans need a gain of 40 seats to win control for the first time in 40 years. They would need a net gain of seven seats in the 100-member senate to take over that chamber for the first time since 1986.

Thirty-six of 50 state governorships are also involved. At the advance White House briefing, Presidential Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said the Democrats are gaining momentum and the Republican and campaign shows they "are obviously worried."

Mr. Panetta said Mr. Clinton is committed not to cut social security benefits, a hot issue since older voters who receive the monthly benefits are also the most avid voters.

He said Democrats would welcome a debate on social security to match records with Republicans, noting that the federal pension system was a depression-era creation of Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt's administration.

One of the Republican ads plays on a recently leaked memo by White House budget director Alice Rivlin, in which she outlined possible economic options for the future — including tax hikes and some social security cuts

among many choices.

"It's a matter of trust," the ad says. "Clinton and the Democrats attack and distort Republican plans. But behind closed doors the Clinton White House discusses cuts in social security and Medicare. And billions more in tax increases. A secret White House memo details a national sales tax, a tax on health benefits, even a tax on Medicare and social security. Fed up with the Democrat double-talk and hypocrisy on tax and spending? On Nov. 8 — send the Clinton Congress home."

Another ad accuses the Democrats of "lying about Republicans to hide their record." It says: "After promising a middle class tax cut, they raised taxes. Even on senior citizens. They promised us a tax cut. But they conned us."

Mr. Panetta meanwhile said Democrats would continue into next week a series of TV ads attacking Republicans for their much-publicised "contract with America" plan, which sets forth a conservative legislative agenda the Democrats brand as a return to favour-the-rich policies of Ronald Reagan's era.

Meanwhile, more than three decades after John Kennedy occupied the White House and Robert Kennedy was attorney general, five

members of America's most famous political clan are running for office.

And the name, it seems, still carries some of the magic of Camelot — for oow.

In a poor section of Boston, Senator Edward Kennedy, who has moved ahead in his race for re-election to the Senate, receives the endorsement of women from 75 diverse advocacy groups.

Across town in the city's financial district, his nephew representative Joseph Kennedy — the self-described "pit bull" of his uncle's campaign — attends a public hearing on discrimination in property insurance.

In Providence, Rhode Island, Ted Kennedy's 27-year-old son Patrick, is campaigning in a gritty working-class suburb for a first term in one of the state's two House of Representatives seats.

Also running are two other members of Kennedy clan: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend — daughter of Robert Kennedy — is Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in Maryland, and Mark Shriver, son of Ted Kennedy's sister Eunice, is running for a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates.

"It's a name that still has a lot of celebrity status," observed Mickey Edwards, a former Republican congressman from Oklahoma

## Drunk stops train

NANCY, France (AFP) — A train travelling from Strasbourg to Paris was stopped Thursday to eject a drunk who was threatening passengers, rail officials said. The arrest on the 5:00 a.m. service of the man, who became abusive in the train's restaurant car, caused widespread disruptions to trains around Nancy, where he was taken into police custody.

## Germans top world alcohol consumption league

COLOGNE, Germany (AFP) — Germans are the world record holders for alcohol consumption, quaffing per head the equivalent of 12 litres of pure alcohol a year, a report said Wednesday. A study by AOK, one of the main social security funds in Germany, said 2.5 million of Germany's 80 million-strong population are alcoholics, mostly men. Another 1.4 million others — mainly women — were dependent on prescribed drugs. According to the report alcohol and prescribed drug dependence cost the country more than drug abuse with banned substances.

## China's oldest panda dies

BEIJING (AFP) — Jingjing, China's oldest giant panda, died recently at the age of 32 in a zoo in the southern city of Chongqing, the Xinhua News Agency said Thursday. The panda, was taken in by the Changsha Zoo in 1976 after being displaced from its native southwestern province of Sichuan by an earthquake. Xinhua said without specifying the day of death. Giant pandas, on the verge of extinction, currently number less than a thousand in China and are concentrated mainly in the mountains of Sichuan.

## Policeman bites policeman

LORIENT, France (AFP) — A retired gendarme was jailed for biting another policeman in a bid to escape a breath test and banned from driving for three years. Lucien Hellegouarch, 63, a repeat drink-drive offender, tried to do a U-turn when he spotted a police roadblock, hot his vehicle got stuck on an embankment, a court here was told. Mr. Hellegouarch, from Lanvenegon near here, allegedly bit a gendarme no-commissioned officer who he arrived with a breathalyzer. "I have been retired for 19 years and the gendarmes are jealous of me," Mr. Hellegouarch told the court. "That's why they are always stopping me." He was jailed for three months and fined 3,000 francs (\$600). The court cancelled his driving licence and ordered him to wait for three years before taking a new driving test.

## U.K. survey shows girls are smarter than boys

LONDON (R) — Girls are more successful at school than boys, are more driven to succeed and will soon beat men to the best jobs, researchers told a British television survey Monday. The BBC's Panorama programme said the findings shattered beliefs held widely in Britain that boys may mature faster than girls, but that boys soon catch up and overtake girls. Richard Kimball of the University of London said a study of 10,000 technology students showed boys trailed girls even in this traditionally "male" area. "The evidence from the survey is that in probably two-thirds of the assessment headings that we were using, the girls were significantly better," Mr. Kimball said. "We were somewhat startled to find that in an area like technology where you would have expected boys to be performing rather better, there was a fairly heavy out-performance by the girls." Peter Downes, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said this was actually nothing new. "The people responsible for the admission into the grammar schools used to have to fiddle the results to make sure there was a balance of girls and boys because if they'd just taken it on raw scores for the entrance exams, the girls would have significantly outnumbered the boys," he said. Kimball said girls were outperforming boys all the way through high school. What put them ahead, he said,





A Mozambican woman shows her hands to the polling officer to prove she has not voted at another polling station in Maputo during the first day of Mozambique's first free elections (AFP photo)

## Mozambique ex-rebels end poll boycott

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique's main opposition Renamo movement Friday lifted its boycott of the country's first multi-party elections, ending a crisis that had sent tremors through southern Africa.

"I'm going to vote," Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama told a news conference in the garden of his residence overlooking Maputo Bay after intense discussions with international envoys.

Renamo, whose 16-year rebellion against the Maputo government ended in 1992, stunned Mozambicans and neighbouring southern African states with an announcement early Thursday that it would boycott the elections hours before polls opened for the two-day vote.

Mr. Dhlakama had accused President Joaquim Chissano's ruling Frelimo Party of massive electoral fraud. But he told the news conference he had obtained guarantees from the international community.

Renamo and Frelimo were the main contenders among 12 presidential candidates and 14 political groups vying for the 250-seat National Assembly.

Mr. Chissano had been tipped to win the presidential vote, but Renamo had been expected to pick up votes in its heartland in the populous centre and north of the country.

With the boycott, African leaders feared Mozambique might go the way of Angola, where Jonas Savimbi's rebel UNITA resumed a devastating civil war after rejecting defeat in U.S.-monitored elections in 1992.

"A shadow has been lifted with Dhlakama's decision," the U.N. special envoy to Mozambique, Italian Aldo Ajello, told journalists.

Despite the boycott, the National Electoral Commission



Ex-rebel commander and leader of Mozambique's Renamo party Afonso Dhlakama arrives at Maputo Airport from his stronghold of Baira (AFP photo)

sion estimated about half the 6.4 million registered voters cast their ballots Thursday, including Renamo supporters who had not heard of or ignored the stayaway order.

State radio reported a strong voter turnout again Friday.

Mr. Ajello, overseeing several thousand U.N. peacekeepers and international election monitors, said his impression was that the election had gone well so far.

"There has been a great turnout," he said.

Mr. Dhlakama told the news conference he had previously announced a series of problems that he said kept Renamo from the polls.

"But since then, we have worked with the international community and we achieved guarantees that our concerns about irregularities will be investigated now, as well as after the elections," he said.

"I will vote personally later today. I would like to call the

Mozambican people that they vote."

Western envoys met Mr. Dhlakama through the night, and talks resumed at his white split-level residence in Maputo's plush diplomatic quarter Friday morning.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Assistant Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad also flew to Maputo to emphasise the concern of regional leaders for a quick solution to the crisis.

International members of the ceasefire commission overseeing the 1992 peace accord between Renamo and Frelimo congratulated Mr. Dhlakama on his decision to end the boycott.

A commission statement noted that the electoral body could extend voting by three days and recommended it take a "flexible position" to ensure time to find solutions to Renamo concerns of irregularities.

## Major makes poll recovery, but Labour Party has record lead

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister John Major's widely-praised handling of the Northern Ireland ceasefire has helped boost his opinion poll rating to the highest level for 18 months, according to a survey in Friday's Times.

But the recovery in his standing has had little impact on the overall rating of the ruling Conservative Party, currently engulfed in corruption allegations.

The opposition Labour Party has meanwhile risen to its highest ever opinion poll rating, squeezing support for the Liberal Democrats down to its lowest level since January last year.

The latest MORI survey of 1,836 adults interviewed face-to-face last weekend shows Tory support unchanged at 25 per cent, while Labour has advanced three points to 57 per cent.

Britain's third party, the Liberal Democrats, are down three points to 14 per cent. For the first time in two years there is evidence of a pick-up in Mr. Major's personal rating from its previous record low.

The number of people satisfied with the way he is doing his job as prime minister is now 27 per cent, up from 17 per cent only two months ago.

Following Mr. Major's handling of the Northern Ireland peace process, the proportion dissatisfied has dropped from 76 per cent to 66 per cent over the same period. These are the most favourable ratings since April last year.

The Conservative Party is currently fighting allegations that certain ministers accepted cash in return for tabling parliamentary questions on behalf of Harrods

boss Mohammad Al Fayed.

Two junior ministers have resigned following the claims. The political crisis effecting the Conservatives triggered by allegations of sleaze showed signs of deepening Friday as two more leading party figures were drawn into the storm.

Treasury Chief Secretary Jonathan Aitken, a right-winger considered a party "heavyweight" fended off charges that he lied over who paid a bill when he stayed at the Ritz Hotel in Paris owned by Mr. Fayed.

In another development Friday, Angela Rumbold, a Tory deputy chairman, resigned as executive director of a firm of political lobbyists.

The government was Friday under assault from the opposition parties, from newspapers and from millionaires Fayed.

Prime Minister John Major has announced measures, made a series of statements and argued angrily with his Labour Party opposite number Tony Blair in the Commons, but he has failed to stem the tide of corruption accusations.

Mr. Fayed has been accused by some of trying to get his own back over a national dispute with the British authorities.

His central role in the affair continued with the Guardian newspaper Friday publishing a copy of Aitken's bill for a stay at the Paris Ritz.

The account was for 8,010.90 French francs (\$1,570). The minister has said he has a document proving his wife paid 4,257 francs (\$830) and that he produced this to an official enquiry into the allegations over payments for parliamentary questions.

The Guardian report said

Mr. Aitken's bill was paid by Saudi businessman Said Mohammad Sayas.

Mr. Fayed, who denies seeking to blackmail the government but says he wants to expose corruption at the heart of the British establishment said in the Guardian he "noted" with interest that Mr. Aitken is maintaining that he had his wife settled his bill at the Hotel Ritz — she was not a guest.

"I note with interest that the secretary of the cabinet has accepted his explanation in spite of the fact that his whole bill was put onto the account of a Saudi businessman."

Al Fayed said he "nored with regret" that he had not been asked to give evidence to an investigation undertaken by cabinet secretary Sir Robin Butler at Mr. Major's instigation.

Mr. Aitken said Wednesday he was involved in the "cash-for-questions" investigation by Mr. Butler, but said he had "never been guilty of an impropriety" in his official duties.

He said his explanations had "perfectly satisfied" Mr. Butler, while the prime minister's office said Thursday it trusted Mr. Aitken "absolutely."

Home Secretary Michael Howard was also mentioned in connection with the Butler enquiry but he too had his name cleared.

However, as pointed out by Labour leader Blair, junior minister Neil Hamilton was also cleared by the investigation but finally resigned over the matter Tuesday evening.

Mr. Hamilton accepted a free stay at Fayed's Ritz Hotel in Paris at a time when Harrods was the subject of a controversial takeover bid.

## U.N. warns Bosnian Serbs over threat

PALE, BOSNIA (R) — Bosnian Serbs threatened to shell Sarajevo Friday in retaliation for a Muslim offensive in northwest Bosnia but were warned to expect punishment by United Nations peacekeepers.

General Dragomir Milosevic of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) said his forces would attack "selected targets" in Muslim sectors of the Bosnian capital if government forces continued their thrust from the Bihac pocket against Serbs.

His threat was brushed aside by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), who told Reuters:

"We hear these threats on a daily basis and we tend to throw them in the rubbish bin. If they do shell Sarajevo, they know what they can expect."

The city is under U.N. protection and Serb forces attacking it are liable to be hit by NATO fighter planes enforcing a weapons exclusion zone for 20 kilometres around it.

Gen. Rose's statement was given teeth by a fresh agreement between UNPROFOR

and NATO on "a more robust (air) strike policy" against the Bosnian Serbs, who regularly breach the weapons ban.

The attack from the Bihac pocket by troops of the Muslim-led Bosnian government army forced thousands of Serb civilians to flee this week. BSA forces joined the retreat, abandoning weapons including tanks.

Bihac town is also a U.N.-protected safe zone for Muslims but the large enclave surrounding it is not.

The BSA accused the Muslims of mounting their thrust from territory under U.N. protection and of violating its safe haven status.

A statement to Reuters by Gen. Milosevic said: "If the enemy continues to act like this, we will be forced to retaliate against Muslim-held Sarajevo for each round fired as of today."

He said BSA forces had been ordered not to fire first and that U.N. military observers would be informed of Muslim violations and Serb counteraction.

The BSA has regularly taken revenge for military setbacks on Muslim civilians

in towns across Bosnia including Sarajevo where 10,000 people have died under Serb artillery bombardments.

NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes said Friday the United Nations had accepted key proposals for a tougher air strike policy against Bosnian Serbs in former Yugoslavia.

He told a NATO meeting in the Hague that the United Nations had agreed to streamline procedures, to eliminate tactical warnings and to "allow for a wider choice of targets to be hit at the same time."

Meanwhile, Croatia and rump Yugoslavia are to hold high-level talks on normalising relations after more than three years of hostility, international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg announced Friday.

The European Union and U.N. envoys, trying to negotiate a "global solution" to the Balkan conflict, said regular meetings would be held in Zagreb and Belgrade between foreign ministers Vladislav Jovanovic of Yugoslavia and Mate Granic of Croatia.



A young Bosnian woman soldier charges an attack-position during her military training on a hill near Sarajevo, as the first intake of women army volunteers prepare for war (AFP photo)

## Russian Duma condemns government; demand reshuffle

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian parliament condemned the government of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Friday and called for a cabinet shake-up, a day after the premier presented a tough reformist budget for next year.

The resolution passed by the Duma, or lower house, stated that the "policy of the government did not correspond to the wishes of the majority of the population."

It called for a ministerial reshuffle.

Deputies voted by 235 votes for and 58 against the motion, which has no binding effect. There were two abstentions and other no-votes.

It was the second major attack by deputies on the Chernomyrdin government in as many days.

On Thursday, an official vote of no-confidence failed by just 32 votes, several hours after Mr. Chernomyrdin presented a tough austerity budget for 1995. He only survived the vote because of a large number of abstentions and no-votes.

But although Mr. Chernomyrdin clearly has slim support in parliament, his crucial economic reform package is not necessarily in danger, analysts said Friday.

"Clearly no one really likes the budget — it is too tough," said Alexander Panin, a political history professor at Moscow State University. "But the vote yesterday doesn't really show that they want to reject the budget and overthrow the government."

Mr. Chernomyrdin presented the budget, which promises to slash funds for heavily subsidised and ineffective state enterprises, in an aggressive speech that called on deputies to take difficult decisions.

He said that although the plan would unleash unemployment, it would also lead to prosperity and stability by the end of 1997.

The respected business daily Kommersant said that the fact that "Chernomyrdin was sure of himself on the podium and even a bit aggressive in front of the deputies" helped him win support.

Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin also said that the hard-hitting style helped. "He must have passed all what he said through his own heart and soul," Mr. Rybkin was quoted as saying by Interfax News Agency.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's strength may be that he is still seen as a man of the centre and attracts loyalty, for different reasons, from both conservatives and reformers, Mr. Panin said.

"As the man from the industrial complex, he is close to the centrists and opposition, but as the author of a more-or-less liberal policy, he is also important to the democrats," Mr. Panin said.

Last year, Mr. Chernomyrdin's slightly less austere budget was lambasted by all sides, but was finally adopted without major amendments.

At the time it was the opposition which pushed the budget.

## Bossi: Berlusconi is 'mortal enemy' of Northern League

ROME (AFP) — Umberto Bossi, leader of the federalist Northern League, one of the main components of the Italian coalition government, Friday launched a stinging attack on Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, calling him a "mortal enemy" of his party.

It was Mr. Bossi's most strongly-worded denunciation to date of Mr. Berlusconi, whose handling of political affairs he has criticised persistently since the government was formed last May.

Mr. Bossi has already referred to the premier witheringly as "Berluscaiser" and a dictator.

"How could anyone fail to see that every day which passes works in favour of Berlusconi. The League is losing its identity."

Newspapers and the television are ruminating it down and making out that its leader is a madman, Mr. Bossi complained in an interview with

the daily Il Giornale.

Mr. Bossi, whose party's main goal is to implement a form of federalism in Italy, asked: "How is it possible to trust the historic enemies of federalism, that is the men of the National Alliance (neofascist) and the League's mortal enemy, Berlusconi?"

He indicated that he intended to put the government "to the test" on the issue of federalism as soon as the budget for 1995 had been adopted at the end of the year.

He hinted that it was also possible the League could withdraw its support from the government. "If we stay in this government, Berlusconi and the extreme right will crush us and call new elections with all television stations playing their tune. But with another government anything is possible and the League could impose its revolution."

## N. Korean minister reportedly in Paris for treatment

PARIS (R) — North Korea's defence minister, in Paris for medical treatment, appears to be seriously sick and will stay for an indefinite time, French officials said Friday.

O Jin-U, number two in North Korea's secretive political hierarchy, arrived in the French capital Tuesday. Seoul government officials, quoting intelligence sources, said Mr. O had lung cancer.

"He's visibly seriously ill," a French official said. "This is

a private visit, no contacts with French authorities are planned."

The Foreign Ministry said Mr. O will be allowed to stay in France for as long as he needs.

But just where Mr. O was being treated was a mystery.

South Korean television stations showed videotape of what they said was Mr. O being helped by aides out of the Laennec hospital in the French capital after a 30-

minute consultation with pulmonary experts.

An official at the hospital denied he had been there. "It's not true. I don't know why people think he has been here," she said.

The North Korean representation in Paris declined comment and the French Foreign Ministry declined to say where Mr. O was.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency quoted diplomatic sources in Paris as

saying Mr. O would get the results of the preliminary cancer tests in a day or two, when a decision on whether he needed surgery would be made.

The television pictures showed a frail O, dressed in a black hat and grey overcoat, stepping into a car belonging to Pyongyang's delegation to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

## French court rejects ex-minister's release appeal

LYON, France (R) — A French court Friday rejected a plea to free former communications minister Alain Carignon from custody during a sleaze investigation, saying the evidence against him was too serious.

In a new jolt to the scandal-plagued government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, the Appeals Court in the central city of Lyon ruled Mr. Carignon should stay in detention indefinitely in a corruption and fraud probe. He has been held since Oct. 12.

Presiding Judge Henri Blondet said there was "serious, detailed and corroborated evidence" that the ex-minister had illegally accepted gifts in 1988 and 1989 from public works companies in the city of Grenoble, of which he is still mayor.

The alleged gifts were aimed at encouraging him to give the firms contracts for water services and other works, it said. Friday's ruling may increase pressure on him to quit as mayor.

Judge Blondet told a public hearing that releasing Mr. Carignon could lead to pressure on witnesses, destruction of evidence and conspiring among the accused to obstruct justice.

His continued detention was also justified by "omissions, inaccuracies and the lack of cooperation of the accused."

The former minister, who proclaimed his innocence in an emotional statement Tuesday, did not attend the brief ruling.

Mr. Carignon stepped down from the cabinet in July and has protested he is a victim of

"rumours and slander."

Judge Blondet said Mr. Carignon was suspected of receiving, directly or indirectly, 24.9 million francs (\$4.86 million) in gifts and services in exchange for public works contracts, including the privatisation of Grenoble's water services.

The figure included the bailout of his debt-ridden campaign newspapers by a subsidiary of public works giant Lyonnaise Des Eaux, which won the city's water concession in 1989.

"There is the suspicion of a corruption pact and a severe breach of public order, given Alain Carignon's position in the city of Grenoble," the judge said.

Former Industry Minister Gerard Longuet was forced to step down on Oct. 14 in a separate corruption probe

into funding of his Republican Party and his private villa on the Riviera.

The probes plunged Mr. Balladur's government into its deepest crisis since it came to power in March 1993, when voters threw out a Socialist government itself undermined by graft scandals.

A front-runner for next year's presidential election, Mr. Balladur's popularity has slipped in recent weeks. Socialist European Commission President Jacques Delors has drawn level in the undeclared presidential race.

In a twist to the Longuet case, the former minister said Friday an electronic bug had been discovered in one of his offices on a private phone he used to talk with cabinet colleagues and make personal calls.

## Eastern Europe fight hangs over EU conclave

BRUSSELS (R) — A showdown over who will guide the integration of Eastern Europe into the European Union (EU) comes to a head Saturday when members of the new European Commission meet to share out their jobs.

Commission President-designate Jacques Santer called the meeting at the Luxembourg Castle of Senning, to decide who will do what when the European Union's executive branch takes office in January.

At issue is control of policy ranging from trade and transport to energy and the economy. But while many of the jobs have more or less been agreed, the Senning meeting is likely to be dominated by a row over foreign relations dossiers.

Mr. Santer, keen to avoid the turf battles that have erupted from time to time among senior commissioners,

has proposed dividing the portfolios along geographic lines instead of the present division between economics and politics.

EU sources say his initial plan has been to give Spain's Manuel Marin control of Mediterranean policy, Latio America and possibly the developing economies of Asia, while putting the Netherlands' Hans Van Den Broek in charge of Eastern Europe.

This would strip Britain's Sir Leon Brittan of his current responsibilities for Eastern Europe and aspects of Asian relations, leaving him with international trade and relations with industrialised nations.

Sir Leon is fighting hard to keep Eastern Europe, considered a plum job in the EU because it involves bringing the former Communist states into the Western fold and cuts across numerous areas including agriculture, trade

and foreign policy.

"Britain has a passionate relationship with the East. He thinks it is his life's ambition," a senior commission official said.

Mr. Van Den Broek, meanwhile, is said to be distressed at losing overall responsibility for foreign policy, which he has wielded as a kind of commission foreign minister.

Other jobs in the new commission, which will have a stronger social democratic majority than the outgoing executive, appear more settled.

France, which is losing the commission presidency after the 10-year reign of Jacques Delors, is set to emerge with two relatively powerful portfolios.

Yves-Thibault De Silguy, an adviser to French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, is tipped for economic affairs, including the march towards

a single currency. France's other commissioner, former Prime Minister Edith Cresson, looks set to take over research, training and industrial competitiveness.

Italy had its eyes on the economic portfolios, but Mario Monti, rector of Milan's Bocconi University, seems likely instead to be given responsibility for taxation policy and for developing the EU's single market.

Agriculture, a portfolio that controls half the EU budget, appears headed for Austrian Agriculture Minister Franz Fischler. Austria is due to join the EU on Jan. 1.

With Austria and Finland having approved EU membership and Sweden and Norway due to vote in referendums on Nov. 13 and 28, the commission could have 21 members from the present 17. It will also have four women.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1979

محرم كبريتية مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية في الأردن  
تأسست 1979

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
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Jordan Press Foundation.

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

### Peace, an integrated whole

EVEN THOUGH U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements in the wake of his visit to Damascus did not reveal very much about the results of his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, it is doubtful that President Clinton proceeded to Israel empty handed. It appears that the two leaders covered more territory than disclosed. The best evidence of this is the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be making another visit to the area in a bid to build on what transpired in Damascus Thursday. President Clinton was also so encouraged as to suggest that he himself would be visiting the Syrian capital again should the Israeli-Syrian peace talks reach a critical stage. And this is not all. The Syrian leader has confirmed publicly that he is willing and able to enjoy "normal" relations with Israel after the Israelis give up the Golan Heights. It does not take much imagination to realise that normal relations between two nations entail establishing diplomatic, commercial and economic ties. President Clinton emerged from his meeting with his Syrian counterpart completely convinced that the Syrian leadership comprehends the spirit of the new era of peace in the Middle East and is willing to play ball on these terms. Even on the issue of terrorism Mr. Assad was more forthcoming in condemning last week's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv even though he did not wish to share this sentiment in public. The stage is therefore set for Syria to jump on the badwagon of peace in the area if not immediately then in a relatively short period of time. The historic peace accord between Jordan and Israel no doubt will have an impact on the Syrian and Israeli decisions to accelerate the process of peace talks between them. What remains is to heal the wounds between the Arab parties themselves which have resulted from the recent events. It would be negative development indeed if the Arab-Israeli conflict is transformed into inter-Arab disputes of the kind and scale that could disrupt what was painstakingly achieved of the Arab-Israeli front. The legacy of mistrust that may have ensued between the Arab parties needs to be attended to and not left to simmer. What concerns Jordan also is its relations with the West Bank and its people. No matter what the differences might be between Jordan and the PLO, there can be no excuse for the kind of public utterances that do not befit civilised norms and standards. In the final analysis it is the Arab people who will end up suffering from these inter-Arab misfortunes. Peace in the Middle East must also mean peace between the Arab countries as well. Otherwise we will all go back to square one.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE SIGNING of a peace treaty does not make peace but rather opens the door for people to achieve it by deed rather than word, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Not only will the largest sector of the population be required to take part in actions and measures to achieve peace on the ground but also the largest sector should feel the benefits of peace so that it can become true, said Sultan Al Hattab. The peace treaty which Jordan signed at Wadi Araba Wednesday will remain threatened unless such steps are taken so as to bring the peace benefits to the door of the Jordanian citizens, he added. With the peace treaty, said the writer, we have entered the new stage but we are still at the threshold of the 1000-mile trip, and we hope that the other Arab states will extend support to Jordan to enable it to fulfil the objectives of ensuring genuine prosperity and progress for the peoples of the region, said the writer.

NOW THAT the Kingdom signed a peace treaty with Israel, its government and people ought to remember that the treaty does not constitute a substitute for democracy at home or strong relations with the other Arab countries, said Taber Al Adwan. The writer in Al Dustour said that the peace treaty has placed Jordan at the threshold of a new era, but that era, he said, would not be achieved without real and genuine practice of democracy and free expression in Jordan. The government and the political forces ought to join hands under the new era so as to ensure the maximum benefits of peace. "It is unacceptable to see democracy threatened and the efforts of political forces dissipated whenever the country is facing major events, he warned.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Peace treaty ensures many gains for Jordan

BEYOND THE restoration of Jordan's territorial and water rights from Israel, the peace treaty that was signed on Wednesday between the Kingdom and Israel has a larger significance. Many Jordanians believe that the treaty has done away with once and for all the designs of some who thought they could exercise their national autonomy in Amman at the expense of the Jordanian people if those some failed in their dealings with Israel.

Many schools of thought within those dreamers used to encourage the Likudist notion of a Jordanian option to solve the Palestinian problem. This treaty shattered those dreams to the satisfaction and rejoice of a large majority of Jordanians.

Another psychological dimension is that many Jordanians used to worry about the megalomaniac expansionist design of many Sbaronist Israeli generals who coveted the success of predecessors and wanted to cross over the river and realise a new victory for the rightist Moladist aspirations. By signing this treaty, and fixing an eastern border for Israel for the first time, Jordanians feel relieved that the future days will not repeat the suffering that many Lebanese had in the 80s and many Palestinians had in the 60s. Now Jordan has an international border with Israel, with solid safeguards, and this is another achievement.

The third dimension is that for the last seven years Jordan has been going through a bottleneck of isolation, being targeted by many adventurists, Arabs and non-Arabs, being marginalised internationally, and cornered within the Arab forum. Jordan has now passed through that political bottleneck. It has retrieved its political role in the region. It has both hands on the Arab initiative and it has managed to win back all the cards it lost within the international arena. So we can say now that the Jordanian role regionally and internationally is three times stronger than it had ever been since the Kingdom was founded.

This international role has its manifestations not only in the visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton to the area, not only in Jordan's presence at the U.N. is visible through Jordan's say which is accepted and respected by decision-makers who are at the moment redrawing the map of the Middle East. This Jordanian advice will be focal in reshaping the destinies of friends and foes.

By sheer resolve and determination, Jordan has man-

aged to secure an Israeli recognition of the historical religious role of the Hashemites in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. Indeed, this has upset the Palestinian leadership, which chose to apply a narrow vision to coordination with Jordan rather than understand and appreciate the Kingdom's explanations and reasons behind insisting on the clause in the Washington Declaration as well as the final peace treaty that was signed last week.

First and foremost, it is evidently clear that if Jordan surrenders its custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem that would not lead to Palestinians taking over the sites. Instead that role will be assumed by the Israeli ministry of religious affairs, which will only manipulate things in such a way that the very Islamic and Arab identity of Jerusalem will be obliterated.

The tempo in relations between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho has indeed gone up. Some reports even suggest that the PNA has unilaterally called off all political and economic agreements with Jordan ahead of what it sees as a political confrontation with the Kingdom.

If that indeed is the case and shape of PNA thinking, then it is also clear that no explanations or reasons that Jordan may provide would assure the Palestinian leadership that its moves had little to do with politics and were religiously-oriented in the context of Jerusalem. The Kingdom has repeatedly declared in public that Jerusalem is the capital of the future state of Palestine, but that any relinquishing of the Hashemite role there at this point in time would only lead to the obliteration of the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City.

Rhetorics and derogatory comments — as those that we heard last week from across the river and from the beach of Gaza — are easy to be made, but, in the final analysis, they only represent the twisted thinking of those who make them. We can only pity those who harbour such twisted thinking if only because it is unseemly of leaders of people to play to the galleries while dealing with serious matters. By extension, the very frame of mind for such utterances has serious implication for the people if the same mentality is also applied when it comes to deciding the future of the people.

M. KAHIL



## U.N.-NATO accord masks differences

By Jonathan Clayton  
Reuter

THE HAGUE — The United Nations-NATO accord on a tougher air strike policy in Bosnia masks deep differences on how to handle the conflict and is unlikely to lead to more resolute ground action, NATO sources said on Friday.

"What we have here is an agreement papering over the cracks between two bureaucracies with fundamentally different views on peacekeeping and on how to implement broadly the same mandate," said one alliance source.

Another source said the agreement on more effective and robust air strikes in response to Serb violations of heavy weapons exclusion zones, reached in New York on Thursday, could actually lead to less military action by NATO.

"Precisely because they may be more effective, U.N. commanders on the ground could be more hesitant in calling in NATO support," he said.

No details on the agreement, which followed three days of talks at U.N. headquarters, were immediately

made available.

But new NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes was expected to set out the fine print in a formal letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali later on Friday.

Under the current "dual key" approach in Bosnia, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Balkans calls in NATO air strikes if U.N. peacekeepers are hit, or if Bosnian combatants violate weapons exclusion zones around Sarajevo and Gorazde, both sides agree on the targets.

NATO had argued its pilots were being put at risk by long delays between a request for a strike and the strike taking place, coupled with prior warnings to Serb gunners. It wanted the right to hit up to four targets without any warning.

The U.N., fearing reprisals against its peacekeepers, appears to have made concessions on the number of targets, but insists on wording that would ensure UNPROFOR commanders would be able to stop an air strike before all targets are hit.

NATO sources say the

U.N. has also accepted the need for a faster response with no advance warning on specific targets to be hit unless there was a danger of civilians being hit.

The sources said, however, there would be no change to the parallel command structure which they blame for much of the apparent dithering over tactics.

The agreement ends a public rift between the two organisations which surfaced after NATO ministers wrote to Dr. Ghali on Oct. 7 requesting tougher ground rules, but NATO analysts say little else has been resolved.

They say the squabble has highlighted the problems of squaring a peacekeeping operation, such as that favoured by the U.N., with a more vigorous peace enforcement approach, favoured by an efficient military alliance like NATO.

UNPROFOR Commander General Bertrand de Lapresle said earlier this week there was a "difference of culture between the U.N. and NATO."

"NATO wants absolutely

to identify an enemy, demonstrate its efficiency and carry off victories. UNPROFOR has a mission of 'maintenance of peace'. I have no enemies," he said in an interview with the French daily Le Monde.

"My soldiers did not come here to carry out a war," he added.

Analysts stress that the difference in the U.N. and NATO approaches goes to the heart of disagreements among the Western powers on how to deal with the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

Washington has pushed for a tougher air strike policy, but has declined to commit ground troops.

France and Britain argue a bolder military line could lead to reprisals against their peacekeeping forces whose commanders stress the need for "even-handedness" even when one side is considered in the wrong, analysts say.

Critics argue a lack of clarity and unity in the West's policy has fuelled the dispute between the two organisations even though the main players in NATO are also members of the U.N. Security Council.

## Israeli settlement on the rise

There are more settlers than ever in the occupied territories, despite the recent peace agreement, writes Patrice Claude

IS PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin quietly engaged in setting up Jewish settlements in the occupied territories? Are his commitments to the Palestinians — maintaining existing Jewish settlements in return for putting on hold their expansion for a five-year period — being broken even before the final status of these territories has been negotiated? In short, is Israel trying to do away with the famous "Green Line" that until 1967 separated it from Gaza and the West Bank?

The question was asked by the daily Ha'aretz in the interests of the "government's international credibility." It got a frank answer from housing minister, General Benyamin Ben Eliezer: "We will go on building in some settlements along the Green Line on land that we have decided not to return and which we consider necessary to control for our security."

Judging by the endless movement of mechanical diggers on the West Bank, a full-scale settlement building campaign seems to be going on, not only along the former armistice line, but also in Greater Jerusalem, along the Jordan River, and even in overcrowded Gaza where Israel still controls 20 per cent of the land.

The Arab cartographic service in Jerusalem notes that in a year since the Oslo agreement was signed, Israel has confiscated 670 square kilometres of additional Palestinian land and uprooted 14,711 fruit trees to extend some Jewish settlements and open up new roads between them. The result is that "Israel now controls 73.6 per cent of the occupied West Bank's total 5,700 square kilometres."

The tendency is confirmed by the Yesha, or grand council of Jewish settlements in the territories. "In one year the Israeli population in what you call the territories has increased by about 10 per cent, that is three times more than the natural growth rate," said Shlomo Katan, mayor of a settlement and Yesha member.

In its last monthly report, the American Foundation for Peace in the Middle East pointed to the "20 per cent increase in a year" of settlers in the Gaza Strip alone and noted that there was a record number of 136,000 settlers on the West Bank (compared with 125,000 a year ago). Then there are the 162,000 Israelis who have settled in the eastern part of Jerusalem since it was taken over in 1967.

The panicky departure of a few Jewish settlers in the

wake of last February's massacre of 29 Palestinians by a fanatical settler in Hebron would appear to have been more than offset by the new arrivals. Discreet though it may be, Mr. Rabin's objective is clear enough, says Khalil Toussakji, head of the Arab Studies Society's mapping department. Apart from the plans to extend Greater Jerusalem's limits to include all the present fast-growing Jewish dormitory towns around it, "Israel is trying to wipe out the Green Line so as to include within its territory all the nearby settlements (in particular the Gush Etzion, Canada Park and Modim groups), and run one or more corridors for its use through the land left to us," he said. The Jordan Valley is sparsely populated. It has been declared a military zone and the area all along the border with Jordan is practically closed to Palestinians.

The new roads and tunnels that have been built and the land expropriations lend legitimacy to Palestinian fears. "The corridor that is to connect Ramat Hasharon and Tel Aviv to the Jordan Valley will carefully bypass the big Arab city of Nablus," said Mr. Toussakji. "The Jewish population in the corridor already outnumbers the Palestinians."

Isolated in three, if not four, enclaves separated from one another like South Africa's former "independent" bantustans, the Palestinian entity will in this way stand no chance of developing into a sovereign state.

Preventing the emergence of such a state is the Israeli government's avowed objective, even if this means having to create what Haaretz calls "new facts accomplished."

Will the prime minister achieve his objective with the zig-zagging tactics or will he quite simply bring the peace process to a dead stop? One Western diplomat said he did not think the process would be stopped, a view shared by many observers. "The Arab countries are under pressure from the United States," he noted. "They are anxious to resolve their own problems and, for differing reasons, less prepared than ever to go along with the Palestinians in their struggle for a state. The Arab countries will not renounce their policy of a limited rapprochement with Israel just to please Yasser Arafat. Those days, if they ever existed, are gone."

Le Monde.

### LETTERS

## Farsighted policies

To the Editor:

THE HASHEMITE Kingdom of Jordan has entered a new era of peace with Israel. As an Arab and Muslim who made Jordan his second home, I am extremely happy that I was able to witness history being made in this dear part of my great Arab homeland. On this occasion, I salute His Majesty King Hussein's vision and his farsightedness in embarking on this battle for peace; a battle that will turn a new leaf in the history of the Arab countries in general and this country in particular. On this occasion I would like to salute all Jordanians who stood behind their dedicated leadership in its quest for a comprehensive and durable peace, that will guarantee the rights of all to live in tranquility and away from oppression.

Islam instructs its followers to live in peace with all their neighbours, provided those neighbours follow the path of peace. The Holy Quran says: "But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace, and trust in God; for He is the one that beareth and knoweth (all things)." Sura 8:61.

Majid Bin Ayed Al Ayed  
Al Shammari,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## Pessimism drives elections, hurts Democrats

By Alan Elsner  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Poll after poll confirms that Americans feel their country is going in the wrong direction and this pessimism has become a driving force to next month's congressional elections.

Since Democrats control the White House, the Senate, the House and a majority of state governments, most voters' anger will be taken out on them on election day, Nov. 8.

But what exactly are people so upset about?

Surveys show it's a mixture of factors, a feeling that the much-touted economic recovery has passed them by is part of it, but the feeling goes much deeper.

There's a widely shared perception that American society has lost its moral

compass, that crime is running rampant, basic values have been forgotten and politicians, headed by President Bill Clinton, can't be trusted to keep their promises.

"Here we are at peace in the world the economy is growing there is one superpower and we're it 20 per cent of all the world's money is in our pockets — yet we are grumpy and off-track," Lamar Alexander, a former governor of Tennessee planning to run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996, said in recent speech.

"We sense something is wrong. We are, too many of us, losing our sense of optimism about the future."

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said part of the malaise grew out of the 1992 election which

brought Mr. Clinton to office, creating high expectations, not all of which had been met — partly, he said, because of Republican obstruction.

"It was an election about... the American people's fear that their children were facing a future of limited opportunity, and that for the first time in 200 years the dream of my parents and many others that our children could have a better life — that dream would not be realised," Mr. Panetta said Monday at the National Press Club.

"It was about concern about gridlock, about partisanship and about blamemanship. So the message was very clear from the American people. The message was 'no more excuses. No more complaints. Do something'."

Mr. Panetta argued that Mr. Clinton had done something but that people would only feel the benefit of some of his reforms over the longer term. "But the credibility of government has been so eroded in the public's mind that they no longer have the patience to trust or to believe," he said.

Republicans could win control of the Senate by capturing seven Democratic seats among the 35 being contested. They would win a majority in the House for the first time in 40 years by winning 40 Democratic seats among the 435 at stake.

Since Mr. Clinton took power, a nagging recession ended and a robust economic recovery took over. The president himself Monday touted a fall in the budget deficit as a major economic success.



## IAF deputy injured in mosque clash

(Continued from page 1)

troops broke up a demonstration that was organised by the Islamic Action Front and seven other leftist and pan-Arabist parties that oppose peace with Israel.

Mr. Mansour said the parties had received permission to stage the rally from the local authorities but security forces prevented the rally through firing teargas and beating some of the people.

Mr. Mansour said two IAF deputies, Abdul Rahim Okour and Ahmad Al Kofahi, were among the demonstrators who gathered in front of the grand mosque in the centre of Irbid about 80 km north of Amman. He said the deputies were not attacked by police who attacked other participants in the rally.

Agence France Presse quoted a member of the Socialist Ba'ath Party as saying that at least one person was injured in the confrontation.

Ahmad Al Mutlaq was quoted as saying demonstrators chanted "no to surrender" and "the land of Jordan is the land of our ancestors. No to leasing it to the villains."

Mr. Mansour, whose party said it would use all its power to fight the peace treaty with Israel, said that police also tried to prevent a demonstration in Zarqa.

He said the demonstration, which was led by IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush, ended peacefully after Dr. Omoush delivered a speech against the peace treaty.

Anti-riot police were posted around mosques in Amman and other cities in the Kingdom in a show of force against possible disturbances.

No other confrontations were reported and sermons in many mosques were shorter than usual, and in some cases restricted to recitations from the Holy Quran. The Ministry of Awqaf appoints mosque preachers for Friday sermons.

"The government is acting with unjustified over-sensitivity," Mr. Mansour contended, adding that the IAF's 16-member bloc in Parliament will demand that other lawmakers "stand up in

defence of democracy."

The IAF spokesman said his party, the largest and most organised in the Kingdom, will continue to resist the peace treaty through "constitutional and democratic means."

The peace treaty is expected to be presented to Parliament for ratification today and all indications are that the Islamists will not be able to bloc it. Over 50 out of the 80 members of legislature have already announced support for Jordan's policy in the peace process.

Yesterday's disturbances were the first in the Kingdom since the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

The IAF criticism of the Jordan-Israel accord was one of a few voices expressing the same sentiments, other political parties, unions, municipal councils and tribal leaders issued statements expressing support for the treaty.

The General Union for Jordanian Workers congratulated His Majesty King Hussein on the peace accord, pledging complete allegiance to the Hashemite leadership.

The union denied reports by Israeli Television that it has called for a general strike to protest the treaty, saying in a statement carried by Petra that it fully supports the steps the Kingdom has taken in the peace process with Israel.

A similar stand was expressed by the centrist Al Yaqadha party, which said in a cable to King Hussein that the party "announces its support for your Arab position."

"The fast changing world, whose political map is being redrawn, requires that political leaders work to protect their homelands with a futuristic look," the party said in a cable, which was signed by its secretary general, Minister of State and Minister of Education Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh.

The Popular Unity Party praised the "balanced" peace treaty that opens the door for Jordanians to develop their country and realise their ambitions.

"We received with pride the treaty which ended half a century of hatred and bloodshed among the sons of the same grandfather, Abraham," Talal Al Ramahi, secretary general of the party, said in a cable he sent to King Hussein.

Petra said the Royal Court has received tens of similar cables of support from municipal councils, tribal leaders, youth clubs and social societies.

Ten Jordanian professional associations and unions on Thursday urged the Jordanian Parliament not to ratify the peace treaty and warned that the association will boycott all deputies voting in favour of the treaty.

The associations and unions, including those of doctors, lawyers, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists, engineers, agricultural engineers, nurses, geologists and writers, also issued a statement following a meeting of their representatives, appealing to the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors as well as citizens to "boycott the Zionist entity."

They stressed that merchants, industrialists, farmers or citizens dealing with Israel will be boycotted and labelled as traitors.

Asserting that the unity of the Arab Nation is the only means to confronting Israel and liberating occupied Arab lands, the participants in the meeting said the treaty was not a surprise, but was the product of a planned plot which started in Madrid and culminated in Wadi Arah, passing through Oslo, Cairo and Washington. They called for considering Wednesday, the day the treaty was signed, one of the Arab Nation's ill-fated days.

The statement issued by the participants in the meeting said all association members will have to refrain from dealing with "the Zionist entity" in all fields.

The associations and unions which signed the statement agreed to issue periodical publications to highlight the repercussions of the treaty, the statement said.

## Clinton promises peace progress

(Continued from page 1)

Israel state radio reported that the U.S. president could come back before the end of the year to pursue the search for peace.

Asked if he would return, he replied: "I hope so, I love it here. I always love coming."

Meanwhile, a newspaper reported that senior Israeli and Syrian army officers have been holding regular, clandestine meetings on security questions for more than one year.

The Haaretz said the talks took place in European capitals and occasionally, for convenience sake, in Lebanon through Egyptian mediation.

Haaretz quoted Israeli sources as saying that the channel was "very important" and enabled the joint examination of bilateral problems "to avoid border tensions."

Syria has steadfastly denied periodic reports of secret talks with Israel and spurned Rahim's pleas for open contact at the highest level.

The U.S. president laid a wreath Friday during a visit to Israel's memorial to the Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II.

Mr. Clinton surprised even his Israeli hosts with the warmth of a speech in parliament, which one minister described Friday as more Zionist than anything previously heard in the house.

"Even in the Israeli parliament there has never been such a Zionist speech," the minister who asked not to be named told AFP.

Mr. Clinton peppered his Thursday night address with Biblical references and made a lasting impression on the 120 deputies and 800 guests who gave him a loud standing ovation.

He was interrupted by applause no less than eight times.

"I feel at home," Mr. Clinton beamed. He plunged into the throng milling around the corridors, thrusting out his arm to shake hands after hand long after the speech.

Far right-wing Deputy Yossef Ba Gad, who

threatened to heckle Mr. Clinton, admitted he had been stunned into silence.

"I intended to disrupt the address several times but I was totally thrown by such an outpouring of love for my country."

"The leaders of our country should be ashamed. It took a foreign president to show them how to adorn a speech with holy words."

Five members of the right-wing Likud opposition party who intended to walk out of the house in protest at U.S. policy in the Middle East, changed their minds as soon as Mr. Clinton got into his stride.

Meir Rosen, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, noted: "So much warmth, so much sincerity in the words and tone. We are not used to such passion for our country, particularly in the Knesset."

"When Jimmy Carter spoke to our parliament on May 13, 1979, it was totally political with no feeling," he said.

Mr. Rosen said U.S. officials told him that at the last minute Clinton's address was altered to reflect the closeness of ties between Israel and the United States.

"The part when he recalled the oath he made to his pastor was improved," Mr. Rosen added.

Mr. Clinton told the Knesset: "He thought one day I might become president and he said... 'if you abandon Israel, God will never forgive you.'"

"Your journey is our journey and America will stand with you now and always," he told Israel.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Clinton's recognition of Syria's pivotal role in the search for Middle East peace was music to the ears of President Assad.

"We cannot maintain peace unless there is peace between Israel and Syria," Mr. Clinton said on Thursday at the end of his visit to Damascus.

"I believe he (Assad) wants peace and I believe he will achieve it," he said after

a three-hour meeting with his Syrian counterpart.

Damascus newspapers on Friday pointed out the gains for Syria. The summit showed that "it is impossible to overlook the role of Syria" in the region, the official daily Al Thawra said.

Mr. Assad, for his part, stuck to his terms for a peace deal with Israel and insisted on a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

"Syria is ready to abide by the objective needs of peace to establish normal ties of peace with Israel in exchange for a total withdrawal from the Golan" and South Lebanon, he said.

Dissecting the comments made at a joint press conference, Mr. Clinton later said that Mr. Assad "plainly went beyond anything he said before."

"In the Middle East, every phrase has certain weight and a certain significance, and he had, really had, spent a lot of time thinking about what ex-

actly he wanted to say."

Although Israeli officials pointed out there was no breakthrough as such, Mr. Clinton promised that more progress was in the pipeline.

Damascus, at the risk of isolation, has stuck to its guns for an overall Arab-Israeli settlement based on the principle of land-for-peace.

But Mr. Clinton said Damascus had a key role to play and he reaffirmed his support for the Syrian stand that peace must be based on the U.N. land-for-peace resolutions, 242 and 338, to the pleasure of the Syrian leader.

On one score, however, the Syrian leg of his Middle East tour failed to live up to the hopes of Mr. Clinton, who was visiting a country which the U.S. state department accuses of sponsoring "terrorism."

Mr. Assad defended his country against the charges, which he said were linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict at large.

## Jordan to present \$18b projects

(Continued from page 1)

priority depending on Jordan's urgent needs and local input into the projects is estimated roughly at 25 per cent of the project costs.

"The government of Jordan remains fully committed to the principles of regional peace and stability as the only long-term cure for the economic ills in which the poorer nations of the region find themselves," says the Kingdom's presentation.

"Adequate economic development must accompany all other efforts at bringing peace in order to ensure that as nations and their leaders are compromising, their poor do not become poorer and their children have a better promise for the future."

"A mind that is unemployed, a body that is unfed and unsheltered has little value for peace and freedom."

The document explains that the criteria used to screen the proposed projects include consideration of cooperation among two or more countries, strong finan-

cial and economic justification based on resources complementarity, support of the private sector, and early prospects for visible success.

It is not clear yet what mechanisms would develop in the Casablanca summit to help finance regional development through the ideas of the countries concerned.

Infrastructure costs could come from donor countries either in direct financing or in the form of technical assistance. At the same time, businessmen expected to attend the conference would be looking at investment opportunities. In this context, Jordan is presenting a brief overview of the investment climate in the Kingdom, outlining the incentives and facilities available.

The ministers of planning, finance, trade and industry, water and transport, are members of the Jordanian delegation attending the meeting in addition to a sizeable team of support staff drawn from various related departments.

## S. Arabia, others hail treaty

(Continued from page 1)

president and Austrian President Thomas Klestil.

More cables were sent to the King by representatives of Jordanian political parties and institutions, voicing support for the treaty and the King's leadership.

These cables were sent by representatives of Jordanian trade unions, youth clubs, voluntary societies, education departments, mayors, municipal councils, chambers of commerce, tribal chiefs and leaders of Palestinian refugee camps, as well as the secretaries general of the Popular Unity Party and the Yaqadha Party.

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said his government considers the treaty as the cornerstone for building a secure and safe Middle East.


He stressed that Japan would continue to support peace in the Middle East and voiced hope that similar treaties will be reached between Israel on the one hand and Syria and Lebanon on the other.

Similar reactions were expressed by Qatar, China, Germany, Greece, India, Romania and Singapore, as well as the president of the U.N. General Assembly.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali received a cable from Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifah Bin Salman Al Khalifah, congratulating him and the Jordanian leadership and people on the signing of the treaty.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien also congratulated the governments of Jordan and Israel on the peace treaty.

"The conclusion of the peace agreement between Israel and Jordan is one of the great accomplishments of the Madrid peace process begun in 1991. It offers eloquent testimony to the vision, leadership and courage of leaders like Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein who have worked selflessly for peace."




# WELCOME


Ahmed Issa Murad Company

welcomes its esteemed guests, the Korean delegation from Samsung Electronics, to Jordan.

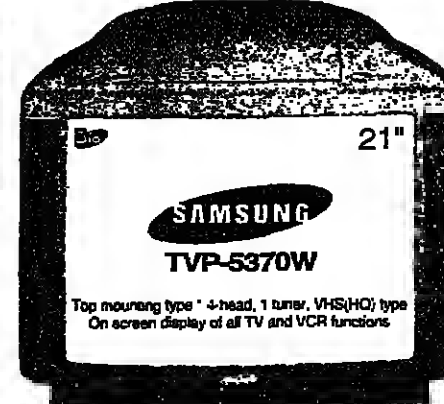
The delegation from Samsung Electronics will be presenting the latest innovation in colour television technology by Samsung, which will be held on the 29th of October 1994 in the Regency Palace hotel, attended by all electronic traders in the kingdom.




**SAMSUNG**  
CS-7271WP  
High performance flat square tube  
Stereo (A2 or A2 + Nicam option) music  
power output: 2 x 30 watts  
Teletext (top Teletext option) - PIP




**SAMSUNG**  
CS-6271WP  
High performance flat square tube  
Stereo (A2 or A2 + Nicam option) music  
power output: 2 x 30 watts - PIP



**SAMSUNG**  
TVP-5370W  
Top mounting type - 4-head, 1 tuner, VHS(HQ) type  
On screen display of all TV and VCR functions




**SAMSUNG**  
CW-5082Z  
High performance square tube  
3 Dome-type speakers



**SAMSUNG**  
ELECTRONICS

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# Saudi economy reels under low oil prices, Gulf war bill

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Low oil prices coupled with huge payments for the Gulf war and growing debt have pushed Saudi Arabia into a corner, where it is left with no choice but to borrow, curb lavish spending and restructure its government-dominated economy, experts said Friday.

The world's leading crude producer and exporter has apparently become unable to secure cash at will, its once vast overseas investment empire has tumbled under heavy expenditure, and world credit bodies that used to rush in at the first signal have become sceptical about its financial capability.

"That is not all," a Gulf banker said. "After years of being a capital exporter, Saudi Arabia has become a pure capital importer and this has greatly upset its balance of payments and drained its foreign reserves."

From more than \$100 billion a year in the early 1980s, Saudi Arabia's revenues from crude exports stood at around \$43.5 billion in 1993 and are expected to be slightly lower in 1994 due to weaker oil prices.

Given its heavy dependence on oil income, its gross domestic product will likely record a negative growth in 1994 although the strengthen-

ing private sector will again register positive growth, according to Saudi bankers.

The current account, which had recorded a persistent surplus during the oil boom, suffered from a deficit of nearly \$12 billion in 1993, \$19.4 billion in 1992 and a record \$27.6 billion in 1991.

The high figures were due to financial contributions to the Gulf war of more than \$50 billion, part of which is still being paid. The kingdom's budget deficit also hit a record \$54 billion in 1991.

Saudi Arabia, which produces nearly 12 per cent of the global oil supplies and whose crude reserves exceed a quarter of the world total, has not revealed its debt but independent estimates put it at more than \$25 billion, excluding military debts owed to the United States.

"Saudi Arabia is having problems with securing cash because it is paying large sums every year to honour its Gulf war commitments in addition to debt repayments abroad and debt to local banks," a Saudi banker said.

"That is why contractors in the kingdom often complain about delays in government payment of their dues. This sometimes compels the government to seek more loans from the banks to meet its obligations to contractors,"

he elaborated.

Saudi Arabia has launched an industrialisation drive to diversify its economy but despite progress, non-oil industrial exports do not exceed \$2.5 billion a year, only five per cent of the crude exports.

Weak oil prices and high spending have exhausted more than half of Riyadh's overseas assets of nearly \$120 billion while its reserves with the International Monetary Fund have plummeted to around \$6.5 billion in 1993 from \$11.6 billion in 1991 and \$22.6 billion in 1987.

According to the Wall Street Journal, cash shortages have forced the Saudis to delay a \$6 billion order of up to 50 aircraft from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, 85 per cent of which will be financed by the U.S. Export-Import Bank. President Bill Clinton, making his first Middle East trip, is expected to discuss the deal when he visits the kingdom late Friday.

The Financial Times said Wednesday the availability of short-term export credit insurance for British companies doing business in Saudi Arabia had been sharply reduced because of the kingdom's "very grave" financial situation and lengthening payment delays.

It said NCM Credit Insur-

ance, a Dutch-controlled firm which accounts for nearly 80 per cent of short-term export credit insurance in Britain, has told customers it was cancelling open account credit limit approvals and will only reinstate them if strict criteria are met.

Unlike the cash-strapped government, the Saudi private sector is steadily gaining strength as low oil prices are forcing the Gulf country to acknowledge its role in development after decades of negligence.

The private sector has grown by an average four to five per cent over the past four years and is poised for positive growth in 1994 albeit slower due to a downturn caused by a 19 per cent cut in the state budget.

The upswing in the private sector, also reflected in a sharp rise in bank credits to that sector, boosted domestic investment to around \$30 billion in 1993 from nearly \$26.5 billion in 1992 and \$20.8 billion in 1991, according to Saudi figures.

"The private sector is Saudi Arabia's only hope if oil prices remained weak," a Gulf economist said. "But it needs time to sustain its growth away from government spending. Privatisation plans will help this trend."

# Economic blueprint sought to cement Mideast peace

CASABLANCA, Morocco (R) — Government leaders and more than 1,100 businessmen start an unprecedented conference on Sunday seeking to lay a solid economic base for peace in the turbulent Middle East and North Africa.

For three days, the executives and more than 200 politicians from 60 countries will have their eyes on development they hope will change daily life for the peoples of the teeming region and underpin the politics of peace.

"The conference is unprecedented... it aims to create the conditions and environment to extend the peace process by a process of economic and social development in the area," a senior Moroccan source said.

The conference brief ranges from infrastructure development, water resources, information technology, foreign investment, banking, trade, tourism, energy, agriculture, capital markets and human resources.

Egypt, whose delegation will be headed by president Hosni Mubarak, has given an indication of how ambitious the goals are. It will propose a rail and road network link-

ing North Africa and Mediterranean countries, and will support plans for a regional development bank.

The organisers see development in areas as varied as the impoverished arid Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip to the oil-rich Gulf nations as the cement to hold peace in place.

The senior Moroccan source said the conference would be "a turning point because Middle East peace cannot mean anything without a quality change in the daily lives of the population of the region."

An aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat underlined this Friday, saying that the whole conference could fail if Israel's ban on some 60,000 Palestinian workers entering the Jewish state was not lifted.

Nabil Sbaath said: "If the closure (of the West Bank and Gaza Strip) is not lifted, the Moroccan economic summit will be overshadowed by a big cloud of suspicion and the summit might fail."

Israel indefinitely sealed off the regions after an Arab bomb attack in Tel Aviv.

The Casablanca conference, over three days, is being chaired by Morocco's King Hassan and opens four

days after Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty to end a 46-year-long state of war.

The United States and Russia are sponsoring the meeting and will be represented by their foreign ministers. It is being organised by the Council of Foreign Relations of New York and the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

WEF President Klaus Schwab told a news conference Friday that a big attendance was "a sign of confidence in the on-going peace process in the region. Businessmen do not like to waste time."

"We have twice as many people coming than we originally expected," a senior Moroccan official said.

Mr. Schwab said the meeting would issue a declaration which "governments have been working on for weeks. The idea is to carry forward the concept of a government-business partnership."

Israeli foreign ministry director-general Uri Savir, whose country will send eight cabinet ministers led by foreign Minister Shimon Peres, told the official Moroccan News Agency that the summit would be a bridge-building exercise.

It would, he said, create bridges between private enterprises and governments in the area, between the Middle East and North Africa, and "between Israel and the Arab World, and between the past and the future."

# Switzerland heads for more than 2% growth

GENEVA (AFP) — The Swiss economy is set to grow by more than two per cent next year, the head of the central bank, Markus Lüssi, has said, commenting that he did not want to use monetary means to hold down the Swiss franc.

The economy was likely to grow by 1.5 per cent this year, he said. In 1993, GDP had fallen by 0.6 per cent.

He did not want to use instruments of monetary policy to counter the strong rise of the franc. An easing of policy, which would tend to weaken the franc, might engender inflationary pressures in the long term, he said at a press conference.

He was "not happy" with the high value of the franc which was a handicap for exporters but held that the rise of the currency was unlikely to impede recovery of the economy.

The franc was firm mainly because the dollar was weak, he said. But excellent progress against inflation in Switzerland was also a factor.

From now until the end of the year the Swiss inflation rate was likely to continue to be less than one per cent.

From June to the middle of October the Swiss franc had risen by 3.5 per cent in value, the managing director of the bank, Jean Zvahlen, said. But it had risen by a smaller amount against leading European currencies and by 1.5 per cent against the mark.

# Ukrainian government cuts food and energy subsidies

KIEV (AFP) — The Ukrainian government has slashed subsidies for food and energy, pushing some prices up nine times, in the first decisive move towards liberalisation in line with IMF advice and before a Group of Seven (G-7) meeting at which Ukraine hopes to obtain western assistance.

A second wave of price increases is expected in January to take prices up to a point, at which they cover costs.

The measures will have a huge effect on living standards of the people who are already on the verge of poverty despite a doubling of pensions last week to \$80,000 karbovanets (59 per month).

The government cut food and energy subsidies drastically and reduced the number of items which could not be exported without a licence from 50 to five.

And the central bank decided to unify the exchange rates of the karbovanets which will now be valued by the interbank currency market.

These severe measures had been required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as conditions for the release of a first instalment of the

so-called systematic transformation facility amounting to \$560 million.

Approval by the IMF should open the way for other loans from G-7 countries to the greatly weakened Ukrainian economy.

The authorities, having undertaken to reduce the budget deficit in 1994 to 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), have cut down state subsidies for energy.

The wholesale price of a tonne of coal sold to industry has risen from 750,000 karbovanets, or 39 per cent of the production cost, to 1,030 million karbovanets or 60 per cent of cost, a governmental resolution quoted by the Interfax news agency said.

Rents and the prices charged for local services have been increased sevenfold. Deputy Economy Minister Viktor Kalnik, quoted by the agency, said.

The price of natural gas has been increased by a factor of eight and of electricity of five to 35 per cent of the production cost.

Rents for state housing have been increased ninefold from 70 karbovanets to 630 karbovanets per square metre.

Mr. Kalnik said: "The Ukrainian economy has long needed a reform of prices because these did not reflect real costs."

The price of food has been increased, and the price of bread has risen from 4,000 karbovanets to 14,000 per kilogramme.

Unemployment benefit amounts to 260,000 karbovanets per month and average monthly pay is believed to be 750,000 karbovanets (\$8).

The increases are also expected to cause inflation to rise sharply. It had been running at three per cent per month during the summer but last year prices rose by 9,000 per cent.

Inflation is also expected to be boosted by the unification of the exchange rates to a rate set by the market.

Until now the state set a rate of 43,000 karbovanets to the dollar at which companies had to sell 30 per cent of their export income to the state.

But companies were obliged to buy dollars to pay for imports at a rate of 75,100 karbovanets on the currency market. Over exchange counters the rate is 94,000 to the dollar.

# Kenyan central bank intervenes to back shilling

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's central bank intervened in the money market Friday only hours after pulling out during a 20 per cent plunge of the shilling against the dollar.

The onslaught on the Kenyan currency was caused by oil industry reforms announced Thursday, bankers said.

The central bank posted the shilling at 41.13 to the U.S. dollar against an average 43.83 quoted by several commercial banks including Barclays, Standard Chartered and Citibank.

The shilling was traded at 35.48 Thursday.

The liberalisation of the oil industry from midnight on Thursday and expectations of it on Wednesday created an instant need for dollars as oil firms moved to build up their stocks.

The central bank said earlier Friday it had pulled out of foreign currency trading to allow what it called free functioning of market forces.

Analysts said the bank's recovery was an effort to try and boost confidence in the market and help stabilise the shilling.

# German institutes double economic growth forecasts

BONN (R) — Germany's six leading economic institutes have doubled their growth forecasts for 1994 and 1995, but warned that unemployment will remain high despite an unexpectedly strong economic recovery.

The institutes expect western Germany's gross domestic product to grow two per cent this year and 2.5 per cent in 1995, according to excerpts of a report.

The eastern German economy, still struggling to overcome decades of communist rule, will expand by a robust 8.5 per cent both this year and next, the institutes forecast.

Pan-German economic growth will reach 2.5 per cent this year and three per cent in 1995.

The latest forecasts, contained in a report entitled "The state of the global economy", largely confirms the most recent government forecasts and surpasses the institutes' own predictions made in their April report.

In April, the institutes forecast that the western German economy would grow one per cent this year, while the eastern German economy grew 7.5 per cent and the pan-German eco-

nomy 1.5 per cent.

Western Germany, Europe's powerhouse economy, shrank by 1.7 per cent in 1993, the country's worst recession since the end of World War II.

But despite the strong pickup in the economy, which has been fuelled by exports, the number of Germans out of work will remain nearly unchanged at 3.6 million, with an unemployment rate of 8.2 per cent in western Germany and 13.9 per cent in the former communist east.

Germany, the institutes forecast.

They predict inflation in both eastern and western Germany of around 2.5 per cent. Inflation in western Germany was 3.0 per cent in September.

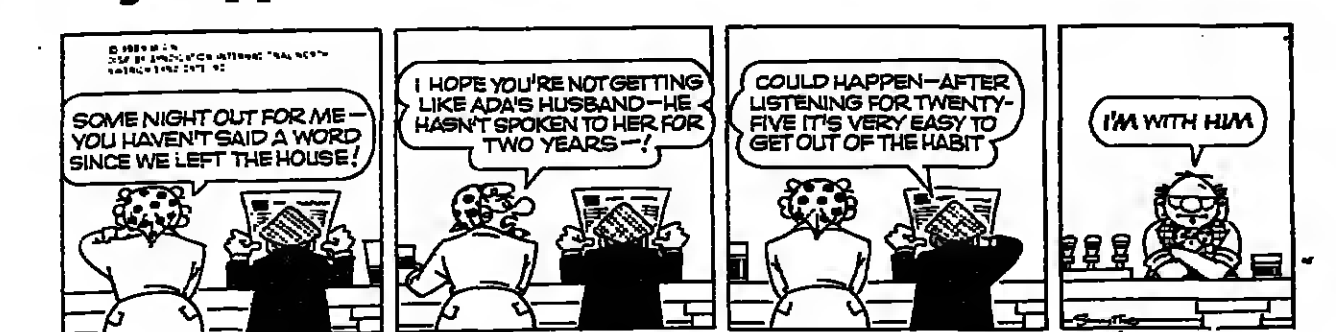
German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt forecast before the general election that the pan-German economy could grow by three per cent next year.

But critics of the government's upbeat forecasts for the economy cite a continued weakness in domestic demand and weak domestic investment as signs that the recovery had not broadened sufficiently to include domestic industry.

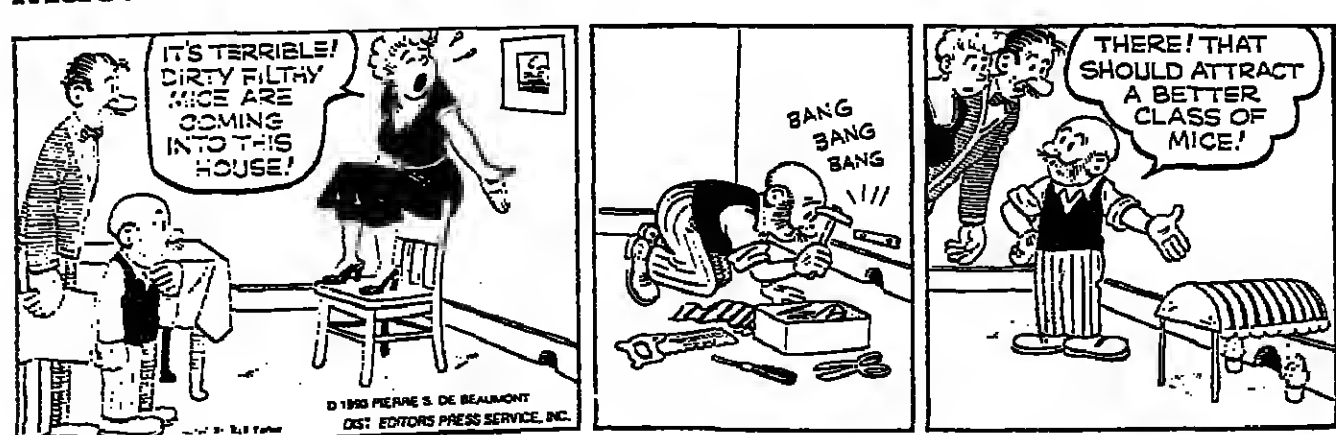
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



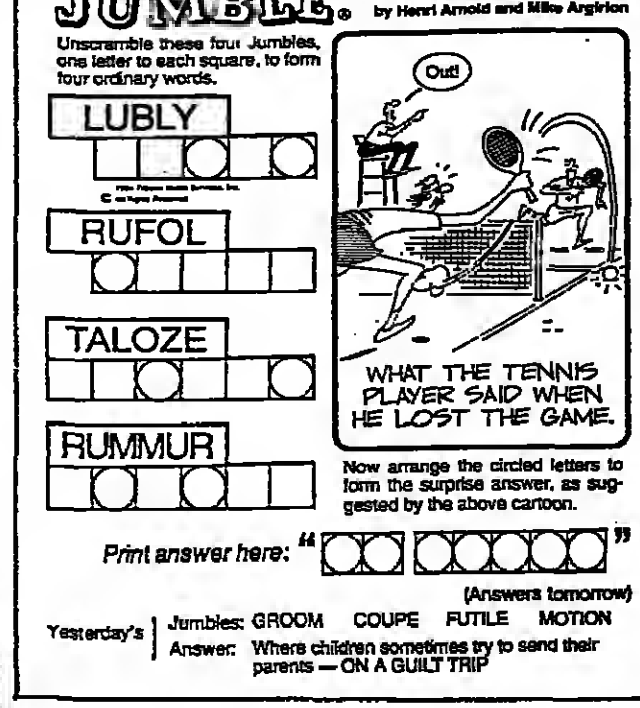
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 1994  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Mercury goes direct today and you can expect quicker cooperation from friends and associates who may have been dragging their heels. Be more encouraging to family and associates who need your support.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Make changes which you feel will be helpful to you in the future. Get in touch with a person who can give you assistance on a new project.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Reach a better understanding with your mate during the daytime and then go out together in the evening for a romantic time you both desire.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) See partners who can help you the most in the future and state your aims clearly, then keep promises you have made to them. Be charming.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Seek some new manner of getting your tasks completed more efficiently and study your newspaper for new ideas. Be with a practical partner in the evening.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Perfect your hobbies you enjoy. Don't forget to go marketing for the weekend. Come to a better understanding with your mate on home matters.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Talk over with every family member your wishes and expectations in the future and come to a fine understanding about what each should do.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get about and see as many people as you can, but plan to stay at home in the evening. Go out and get the shopping completed for the weekend.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Handle financial affairs very well during the daytime and then take time in the evening to visit friends or close relatives you miss.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get busy at personal matters you have put off until later. The evening is best for handling practical matters. Visit close friends.

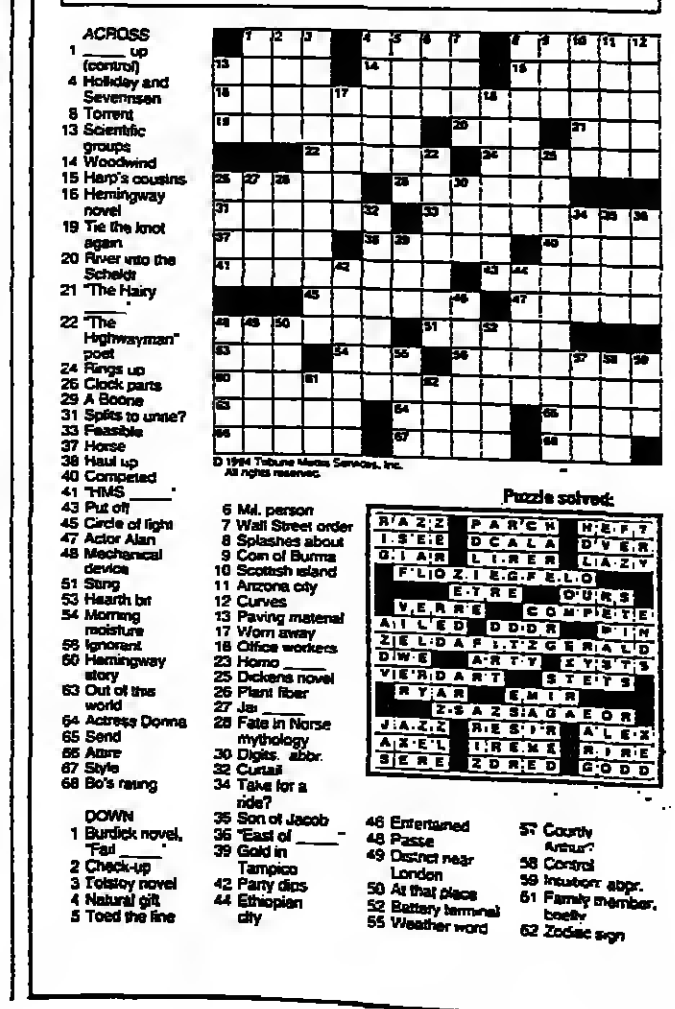
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) This is a fine day to buy a new item for your wardrobe. Theo get about socially in the evening with your mate for a good time. Be active.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can be very active with your close friends during the daytime, but tonight make fine plans for the future on what you want in life.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Handling outside affairs during the daytime brings fine results. Gain the support of some influential person who can help on a project.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

## THE Daily Crossword by Gayle Dean





## Financial Markets

**Jordan Times**  
In co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.0350	1.0355
Deutsche Mark	1.4911	1.4930
Swiss Franc	1.2450	1.2455
French Franc	5.1035	5.1145**
Japanese Yen	96.85	96.88
European Currency Unit	1.2783	1.2754**

1000 J.O.D. = 1000 S.D. = 1000 L.S. = 1000 F.F. = 1000 Y.E. = 1000 E.C.U.

**Derivatives Interest Rates** Date: 27/10/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.37	5.68	6.06
Sterling Pound	5.31	5.75	6.25	6.93
Deutsche Mark	5.08	5.43	5.66	5.50
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.75	6.00	6.43
French Franc	5.25	5.43	5.62	6.06
Japanese Yen	5.12	5.18	5.25	5.62
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.75	6.06	6.68

**Previous Metals** Date: 27/10/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	389.40	7.65	Silver	5.58	0.125

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin** Date: 27/10/1994

Currency	Aid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.1235	1.1301
Deutsche Mark	0.4684	0.4627
Swiss Franc	0.5521	0.5549
French Franc	0.1346	0.1353
Japanese Yen	0.7095	0.7130
Dutch Guilder	0.4107	0.4125
Swedish Krona	0.0451	0.0453
Italian Lira	0.0451	0.0453
Belgian Franc	0.0451	0.0453

**Other Currencies** Date: 27/10/1994

Currency	Aid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8130	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.040775	0.042250
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1831
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3170	0.3210
Qatari Riyal	0.1826	0.1912
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2000
Omani Rial	1.2800	1.3010
UAE Dirham	0.1867	0.1891
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.4140	1.5350

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD 12/10/1994 - 25/10/1994

MARKET SUMMARY

COUNTRY'S NAME

TRADING VOLUME

PRICE

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

## AFM trading shrinks, share prices drop

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The historic peace treaty that Jordan and Israel signed last week failed to impress investors in the Amman stock market, where a general decline in volume and prices was registered, brokers said Friday.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), as the bourse is officially known, said the volume of trading during the week went down by 36 per cent to JD 3.9 million from the previous week's JD 5.2 million.

However, part of the decline was attributed by brokers to the official holiday on Wednesday when Jordan and Israel signed the peace treaty. The holiday brought down to four the number of working days at the market instead of the usual five. In addition, Wednesday has two trading

sessions and the absence of work on the day contributed to the decline, brokers said.

On the other hand, prices of shares went down during the week. The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 143.64 points, down 0.7 points, or 0.5 per cent, the report showed.

The separate sectoral indices showed that all sectors except commercial banks and financial institutions also registered a drop.

The industrial stock index registered a drop of 1.9 points, or 1.2 per cent. The service sector index declined by 1.2 points, or 0.9 points, and the insurance sector index lost 0.8 points, or 0.6 per cent.

The rise in the industrial stock prices was 0.2 points, or 0.1 per cent.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 1.46 million or 36.8 per cent of the weekly volume, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.36 million, or 35.3 per cent, the services sector with JD 1.03 million or 26 per cent and insurance stock with JD 50,000 or 1.3 per cent.

The AFM report said 1.6 million shares changed hands during the week under 2,774 contracts.

Shares of 73 companies were traded during the week. At the time of closing on Tuesday, six of them showed gains, 56 showed declines and 11 remained stable.

The performance of the market was a surprise to many who had expected investors to take heart from the signing of the peace accord and reflect their expectations of the economic benefits of peace in the stock market.

But, brokers said, investors were awaiting solid signs of projects materialising as a result of the peace process. "Expectations that peace will bring in economic benefits have already been overexploited in the market," said a broker. "People are not longer willing to bet on that basis."

Another dissuading factor for some investors to actively trading in the market was the obvious worsening relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"It was no secret that the relationship was not exactly the best," observed the broker. "But some of the comments made by the Palestinian leadership were taken by investors in Amman as a sign of a further plunge in relations."

## Low rates threaten small shipping firms

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A sharp decline in shipping rates over the past two years because of competition and world economic recession has inflicted heavy losses on several companies serving the Gulf region and could force some of them out of business, shipping sources have said.

High rates five years ago tempted many world shipping firms to operate on the Gulf

route and an ensuing price war coupled with the recession depressed shipping rates by more than 20 per cent, the sources said.

Gulf and world shipping companies, reeling under losses over the past two years after steady profits, have hiked rates three times in the past 15 months but they are still far lower than their previous levels.

"You can say the situation is bad despite the recent increases in rates," said a shipping agent in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "If the situation does not improve, several companies, mainly the small firms, will be forced out of business in this region."

The increases have pushed up rates on freight between the Gulf and Asia currently to between \$1,200 and \$1,300 per 20-foot container. But this compares with between \$1,500 and \$1,600 in 1991.

Rates on cargo between the Gulf and Europe have also increased but remained at around \$1,000 compared with \$1,700 in 1991. Rates on cargo from the United States to the Gulf have also fallen by nearly 30 per cent, to \$2,000 from \$2,800 two years ago.

The latest rise of \$150 on cargo from the Far East took effect on Oct. 1 and was agreed by a group of 13 shipping lines operating in the oil-rich Gulf. They include the United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), which is

owned by the governments of Saudi Arabia and four other Arab Gulf states.

UASC, which operates nearly 60 vessels, was among the companies hit hard by the decline in shipping rates. After record profits of \$60 million in 1991, the Kuwait-based company suffered a loss of around \$33 million in 1992 and \$11 million in 1993.

But the loss has not affected the company's plans to buy 10 new container vessels to face growing demand in other areas.

UASC, the biggest joint Arab shipping venture with an authorised capital of around \$1.77 billion, has not issued any results for 1994 but company officials have again expressed concern over the weak market.

"The current situation is not healthy and encouraging as it harms shipping companies in the long term," said Abdullah Al Shamsi, deputy director of the UASC office in the United Arab Emirates.

"The results of most companies serving in this region have been negative over the past years as there are more than 20 lines operating regularly here. The continuation of this situation could cause more losses and prompt large firms to monopolise the market. This is not good for clients," he told the daily Al Bayan.

The Gulf has remained one of the busiest regions in the world for shipping lines as it depends heavily on imports.

According to official figures, the non-oil trade of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council is estimated at around \$50 billion a year while it exceeds \$70 billion with the inclusion of Iran.

The bulk of this trade is conducted with South East Asia, Europe and the United States.

Mr. Shamsi expressed hope that the market could climb out of the doldrums next year due to economic recovery in the Far East and industrial nations.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

1.4974/84

1.6792/02

1.2516/26

30.81/85

5.1277/27

1531.93/4

96.93/03

7.1404/04

6.5130/80

5.8590/40

\$1.6444/54

One sterling

One ounce of gold

\$388.30/388.80

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# Africa comes away as big winner, gets five World Cup berths through 2002

NEW YORK (AP) — Africa came away as a big winner Thursday, getting two more guaranteed berths for a total of five at the next two World Cups, while Europe and South America also received an additional two berths each, but only for 1998.

With the World Cup expanding from 24 to 32 teams in 1998, the additional berths mean Europe will have 15 countries competing in France and South America five. Concacaf picked up an additional one for a total of three while Asia received a guarantee of one more for a total of three with the possibility of winning a fourth in a playoff with Oceania.

Thursday's announcement by FIFA President Joao Havelange, following a meeting of the 21-man executive committee, means Africa's representation in the quadrennial championship has increased 1½ times since 1990 when it had only two teams in the tournament.

"Everybody was in full consent of what was now decided," said FIFA Secretary General Sepp Blatter. "Everybody is happy. So there was no fight, no battle. Europe is happy. You can ask them."

With Europe having seven of the eight quarterfinalists at the 1994 World Cup and the second highest membership in FIFA (49 nations, second only to Africa's 51), many thought UEFA would get 16 berths.

Since the host and defending champions are assured of berths, Europe could have as few as 14 in 2002 and South America could be reduced to four.

Although the 2002 World Cup has not been awarded to any nation yet, FIFA has assured that it will be staged

in an Asian country. Japan and South Korea are the likely hosts.

The 1998 World Cup will be the first time that Europe has had less than half of the participating nations, but Blatter said that reflected the increasing popularity of soccer.

"The pupils are now caught up with the teachers," he said.

"I'm totally satisfied," UEFA President Lennart Johansson of Sweden said. "Two months ago when we met in Zurich we said if we would get 14 places we would be satisfied."

Africa has pressed for more representation in the World Cup finals ever since Cameroon reached the quarterfinals in 1990.

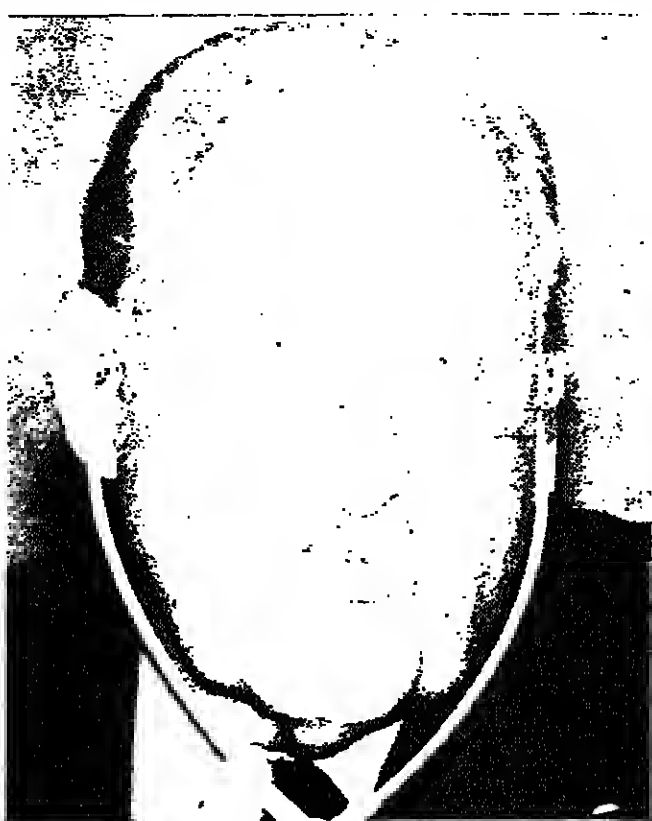
"I'm happy because we received unanimous support from Europe and Asia for the five places for Africa," CAF President Issa Hayatou of Cameroon said.

The allocation adopted by the committee was the first of two recommended by the six regional confederation presidents.

Havelange said the distribution of berths was not the same as his recommendations, which had Europe getting 16 berths (including host France), Africa four, South America five (including defending champion Brazil), Three each for Asia and Concacaf, and one for Oceania. Some have questioned giving South America five berths considering it only has 10 member nations.

At the last World Cup in the United States, Europe had 13 berths, including defending champion Germany.

South America three (plus a fourth won in a playoff with the Concacaf-Oceania playoff winner), Africa three, and



Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA, answers questions from reporters Thursday at a news conference in New York (AFP photo)

Concacaf and Asia two each.

The expansion of the World Cup by eight teams came as a campaign promise by Havelange, who was elected to a sixth term as FIFA president in June.

While some reporters questioned the logic of the announcement, both Blatter and Havelange insisted the allocation was equitable.

"It is fair. If you share with your neighbour, that is fair," Blatter said.

The secretary general explained that with eight additional berths, it was generally viewed that each confederation would receive one, leaving

only two in dispute.

Six for South America, he said, would leave that continent with 60 per cent of its membership in the World Cup. That left the dispute between Africa and Europe.

"African football now has many players in the European leagues," Blatter said. "African football is well recognised in Europe. If Europe gets 16, they take half the cake."

So the two berths were divided among Europe and Africa.

But the allocation still left Oceania without a guaranteed berth. Blatter said that

had to be since only Australia has qualified for that region in any of FIFA's tournaments, apparently dismissing New Zealand's appearance in the 1982 World Cup.

"Oceania is happy (with the playoff with Asia)," he said.

"It would not be good to give Oceania a full berth since it would practically ensure for Australia a World Cup berth."

The World Cup berths was only one, albeit the biggest, item on the FIFA executive committee agenda.

Other decisions included making three points for a victory and one for a draw in all professional and amateur competitions throughout the world. The decree will take effect in the next competitive season of each respective league.

Additionally, all FIFA competitions hence except the World Cup will have a sudden-death overtime, meaning games that are tied that must be decided will go to two 15-minute extra periods, but will end when the first goal is scored. If still tied, penalties will break the deadlock.

And one matter placed before the committee for consideration that will be decided later was Havelange's suggestion that a member of the executive committee serve a two-year term as president between the expiration of his term in 1998 and 2000.

This would place the presidential election in a two-year cycle opposite the World Cup, and de-politicise the World Cup. Some criticised Havelange for "buying" his last election in June by guaranteeing the smaller confederations additional World Cup berths with his expansion of the field to 32 teams.



Lothar Matthaeus

## Trouble looms at Bayern as Matthaeus hits back at Papin

BONN (R) — Franco-German relations are strained at Bayern Munich with captain Lothar Matthaeus lived at French striker Jean-Pierre Papin's harsh words about the team ahead of an important week of action at home and in Europe.

Matthaeus said former European footballer-of-the-year Papin was "talking rubbish" when he accused Bayern Wednesday of having no solidarity in the dressing room and said players were too quick to criticise each other in public.

With a testing league game at home of VfB Stuttgart Saturday and a European Champions League clash with Spartak Moscow next Wednesday, the reigning champions could do without the squabbling. Germany's most capped player is not amused, however.

"Papin is talking rubbish, a lot of rubbish," Matthaeus said. "(Defender) Oliver Kreuzer and I had a little argument. But Papin doesn't understand the language and

didn't follow what was going on."

"I have never felt so much solidarity as there is here... If he goes on making headlines like that he is going to have problems in the future because the team can also read what he is saying... he should look after his own problems."

Papin, who turns 31 next month, has struggled to perform at Bayern because of a nagging knee injury and has been criticised by some of the German media for failing to score goals.

His decision to give controversial interviews to the press this week seems hypocritical since he has done exactly that which he said players should not do — criticising the team. But his outburst is likely to have come from frustration at not playing.

Papin could solve that problem Saturday if he can make a successful comeback against Stuttgart who are just one place below Bayern in sixth with the same number

of points. The Frenchman was able to train with the team Wednesday without any pain.

Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni, who gave the team a stern lecture about talking about teammates in public before the session, said: "If he is mentally and physically ready he can play but not for the whole 90 minutes."

Bayern, one of seven teams on 12 points from third to ninth places, need a victory to stay in touch with leaders Dortmund who have 16 points.

Dortmund face a difficult trip to Dynamo Dresden Saturday without their talented libero Matthias Sammer who has pulled a leg muscle.

Werder Bremen, who are second just one point behind the leaders, also have a tricky game at home to Eintracht Frankfurt who are at full strength with talented German international midfielders Thomas Doll and Maurizio Gaudino back in their ranks.

## Maradona likely to be allowed to coach

NEW YORK (AP) — If Argentine Soccer Federation President Julio Grondona has anything to say about it, and it appears he does, Diego Maradona will get his coach's licence and be able to sit on the bench for Deportivo Mandiyu.

FIFA President Joao Havelange Thursday said FIFA's executive committee has no problem with the Argentine World Cup hero being given an exemption to a rule requiring a coaching licence and Grondona said he will try to get that exemption. "He is somebody special," Grondona said. "Do you

think (Johann) Cruyff, (Franz) Beckenbauer or (Michel) Platini have licences to coach?"

"If it's up to me, yes (Maradona) will get the licence exemption."

However, it was not clear if Maradona's 15-month suspension for testing positive for steroids at the World Cup will keep him from coaching.

On Wednesday, FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni indicated the ban, the second imposed on Maradona in his career, was from all soccer-related activities, including coaching.

## Strike-breakers could face fists

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball players who cross the picket lines when next season begins had better avoid this area if they know what's good for them, New York Mets' and Yankees' players warned.

"I'm sitting out. I'm losing a lot of money," Met's pitcher John Franco said. "If you cross the line, it might be a tough go for you. I don't throw balls. I throw fists."

Owners hope to weaken the union strike, now entering its 12th week. But if no deal is done by next April when the 1995 season is set to open, there could be temptation for some players to return to work.

"They would be marked guys," warned Mets' catcher Todd Hundley. "Those guys would have a big bulls-eye on their back."

When the strike ends, the chance for retribution might begin. That could include teammates or opposing pitchers hurling 100mph fastballs at batters on purpose.

"I might even have orders from somebody to throw at him and I'm sure if the situation got that bad, it would happen," Yankees' pitcher Scott Kamieniecki said. "We have to do what we think is right."

"If it came to that, I wouldn't hesitate."

U.S. federal mediator W.J. Ury listened to the union's view on baseball's contentious labour history here Wednesday.

No owners representatives were there. Ury plans to meet with them at an undetermined later date.

Had a players strike that began August 12 not wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years, Wednesday and Thursday would have been the dates for games four and five of baseball's championship battle.

Instead, players await Sunday's start of the free agency signing period. While some deals are possible, most expect no rush to sign available talent until a settlement is reached in the dispute over salary limits.

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## Cole out for a month

LONDON (R) — Andy Cole, Newcastle United's prolific goalscorer on the verge of England selection, will be out of action for at least a month in a bid to overcome a troublesome shin injury.

Manager Kevin Keegan ordered his 14-goal topscorer to rest Friday following advice from the club physiotherapist. Cole, who has been unable to train for six weeks because of the injury, will not play in Saturday's

clash between the league leaders and champions Manchester United, and misses Tuesday's UEFA Cup trip to Athletic Bilbao. Keegan said: "Andy won't play for at least the next month. It's my decision and while he wants to play on, he has accepted it. His lack of training has caught up with his fitness." Newcastle are able to replace Cole with Paul Kison, the striker they bought recently for £2.2 million (\$3.6 million) from Derby County.

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Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AQ75 ♠KQ ♠J94 ♠KQ84  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 2 ♠ Pass 2  
? 3 ♠ Pass ?  
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ762 ♠A854 ♠Q9 ♠A4  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠KQ8 ♠A10943 ♠733 ♠93  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 2 ♠ Pass 2  
? 3 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ964 ♠K6 ♠72 ♠KJ63  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass  
? 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 6 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KQ2 ♠A83 ♠QJ8 ♠A952  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
? 2 ♠ 3 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AKQ10 ♠5 ♠9753 ♠A64  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
? 2 ♠ 3 NT Pass  
What action do you take?





Driver Peter Bourne (right) and co-driver Tony Sircombe (left), winners of the Hong Kong-Beijing Rally 94, sit on top of the winning Subaru with Chinese actress Gong Li at the finish line in Tiananmen Square Friday (AFP photo)

## Bourne retains Hong Kong-Beijing Rally title

BEIJING (R) — New Zealand's Possum Bourne retained his Asia Pacific Rally championship Friday, edging out Subaru teammate Richard Burns of Britain on the seven-day course from Hong Kong to Beijing.

The one-two Subaru finish was assured after highly routed entrants from arch-rival Japanese carmaker Mitsubishi suffered crashes and mechanical breakdowns.

Of 30 entries, only 14 cars completed the 3,800 kilometres (2,356-miles) rally.

Bourne clocked an unofficial time of five hours, 16 minutes, 16 seconds over timed course segments, 30

seconds better than Burns. "I feel fantastic," Bourne said after piloting his Subaru Impreza through brilliant sunshine to victory in Tiananmen Square at the heart of the Chinese capital.

"The road surface was rather dry and slippery, and the first three days were very hard. We kept changing our tyres frequently and drove carefully all the way," he added.

"The third day was the critical point of the rally. After that we took it easy," Hong Kong's Michael Liu finished third despite driving a less-powerful Mitsubishi Lancer, a Group N entry. Liu was 28 minutes, 16

seconds behind Burns but 1:22 faster than Kenjiro Shinozuka, Mitsubishi's only Group A entrant to finish.

"It's a fantastic feeling to beat the big boys," Liu said after the final day's drive past the Great Wall and the Ming dynasty imperial tombs outside Beijing.

China's top finisher was Xian Tongchun, in 10th place.

Promoters estimated the rally's fifth running was watched by about 13 million spectators, who lined the northern course through east China, ranking it among the most widely watched sporting events in the world.

## Agassi rallies again from one set down to reach the Stockholm quarterfinals

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Andre Agassi rallied from a set down for the second straight day to beat fellow American Todd Martin and reach the Stockholm Open quarterfinals.

Agassi's 7-1 (4-7), 6-4, 6-1 win Thursday earned him a berth against No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic in the final eight at the Globe Arena.

Agassi won his last two matches against the big-serving Croatian, the 1992 Wimbledon final and the semifinals in Vienna, Austria, last weekend.

Agassi, who lost the first set 6-0 against Nicklas Kulti before coming back to beat the Swede in three sets in his opening match here, has won 14 straight matches since capturing the U.S. Open early September.

"I'm proud with the way I played from start to finish," said Agassi, who also beat Martin in the U.S. Open semis.

The first set went with service all the way and Martin won the tiebreak 7-4, after Agassi netted an overhead.

The first service break didn't come until the ninth game of the second set, when Agassi broke Martin to lead 5-4.

"It was an important game," Agassi said. "It gave me confidence and brought down his level of play."

Martin, who served 19 aces but also had 40 unforced errors in the match, was broken again early in the decisive set as Agassi jumped to a quick 2-0 lead.

Agassi, seeded No. 9 right behind Martin, said Iva-

nisevic is always difficult to play.

"It's important to return well against Goran," Agassi said. "I hope he's not going to serve big tomorrow."

Ivanisevic, always steady on carpet, made it to the quarters with a 7-5, 6-3 win over unseeded Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy.

Top-seed Pete Sampras also advanced to the quarterfinals, but without hitting a shot as Marc Rosset, the 15th seed, withdrew because of the flu.

Sampras, the world's top-ranked player, will face Magnus Larsson of Sweden in the quarters.

Sampras is playing his first ATP event since losing to Peru's Jaime Yzaga in the round of 16 at the U.S. Open. Last week, he reached the semifinals in an exhibition in Hong Kong.

Larsson, who ousted No. 7 seed Michael Chang in the second round, eliminated No. 10 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 6-1, 6-2.

The hard-hitting Swede, who is ranked 27th in the World and unseeded here, lost to Sampras in four sets a month ago during the Sweden-United States Davis Cup semifinals. Sweden won 3-2.

He's the only Swede left in the tournament. No. 5 seed Stefan Edberg, a former two-time champion and four-time Stockholm finalist, lost 7-6, 17-4, 6-2 to Russia's rising star Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Kafelnikov, who lost his only previous match to Edberg in 1993, was due to

play No. 4 Sergi Bruguera of Spain on Friday. Bruguera beat unseeded Arnaud Boetsch of France 6-4, 6-2.

No. 6 seed Boris Becker, a three-time Stockholm Open champion who played one of the best indoor matches of his career here four years ago when he beat Edberg in the final, downed Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-4, 6-3. Next up for the third-seeded Becker is fellow German and defending champion Michael Stich, a 7-5, 6-3 winner over Courier.

"I didn't play bad, but I can play a little better," said Edberg, who blew two set points when leading 5-4 and 15-40 in Kafelnikov's serve in the opening set.

"He made few mistakes and returned awfully well. I think he has one of the best service returns on the tour," Edberg, who has won every Grand Slam title but the French Open during his brilliant career, will get an opportunity to gain revenge on Kafelnikov when Russia hosts Sweden in the Davis Cup final in Moscow early next month.

"It's always different in the Davis Cup. Then he will probably feel the pressure, playing before his countrymen in Moscow," Edberg said.

Russia has never made the Davis Cup final. Sweden reached nine and won four.

Edberg spent the past two weeks in Asia, winning the exhibition in Hong Kong last weekend, but he said he didn't suffer from jet lag Thursday.



Andre Agassi

## Mercedes confirm 5-year partnership with McLaren

STUTTGART (R) — Mercedes confirmed one of Formula One's worst-kept secrets on Friday when they announced they had signed a five-year partnership with the McLaren Grand Prix racing team.

But both Mercedes Chief Executive Helmut Werner and McLaren Chief Ron Dennis refused to confirm the drivers' line-up for what promises to be a new Formula One "super team."

"Mika Hakkinen has a contract with McLaren and he will be in one car," said Dennis. "But the remaining seat is an open issue and it will not be resolved until the end of November."

Dennis said he still harboured hopes of persuading the current Formula One world drivers' championship leader Michael Schumacher of Germany, who is a former McLaren junior driver, to join the British-based team for 1995.

But he admitted the prospect of this happening was unlikely.

"We have a desire to put him in the car and hopefully this new partnership will attract him in the future," said Dennis. "I hope that is

sooner rather than later."

"One of his qualities is his loyalty to the people he has worked with towards winning what I expect will be his first world championship, so I think it is highly unlikely he will be free for 1995," Dennis added of Schumacher.

Asked to provide a shortlist of drivers with a chance of claiming the second McLaren seat, Dennis named German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Briton David Coulthard, his team's current number two driver Martin Brundle of Britain — and Schumacher.

But he said he named Schumacher only "in the event that his contract (with Benetton) is unfixed which I emphasize is highly unlikely."

One name missing from Dennis's list was Rubens Barrichello, suggesting that the talented young Brazilian will almost certainly remain with Jordan for 1995, particularly now that the Irish-owned team have formed a new partnership with Peugeot.

Peugeot are currently engine suppliers to McLaren and Dennis said the two had ended their contract amicably.

Werner, announcing the

new deal a Mercedes head-quarter, refused to discuss the budget the German car-makers had allocated for their new assault on Formula One.

Fellow director Jurgen Hubbert said Mercedes aimed to finish among the top five Formula One teams next year and to win the championship in 1996.

Dennis said he believed the new McLaren-Mercedes team would be the only one entering the 1995 championship with a purpose-built three-litre engine — conforming to the new regulations — rather than a modified engine.

Werner also said Mercedes would be explaining their involvement with the Penske team in the 1995 Indycar series.

Mercedes now have high-profile partners in the world's three most popular areas of motor racing — Formula One, Indycar racing and the German touring car championship.

McLaren have won a record 104 Grand Prix and claimed seven world titles in the last 10 years and Penske won 12 of the 16 races in the Indycar world series,

## Nebiolo pledges support for U.S. athletics

MONACO (R) — International athletics chief Primo Nebiolo pledged Friday financial support for the sport in the United States.

"We hope to embark on a serious support programme for track and field athletics in the United States so that the marvellous athletic talents of U.S. athletes can receive the publicity and recognition they deserve, especially in the United States," Nebiolo said in a speech to the general assembly of the Ibero-American Athletics Association in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Extracts from the speech were issued by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) here.

The IAAF president said the federation would do everything possible to ensure that the 1996 Atlanta Olympics "are nothing short of the greatest ever staged in Olympic history."

## NBA's Rockets begin repeat bid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Houston Rockets, led by most valuable player Hakeem Olajuwon, look set to continue the National Basketball Association's (NBA) recent tradition of repeat champions in the season that starts Nov. 4.

The Rockets, who at times last season could not help believing the pundits' judgement that they were playing above themselves, now know their capabilities.

Their would-be challengers are a mix of teams led by aging stars — Patrick Ewing's New York Knicks, for example, and Charles Barkley's Phoenix Suns — and clubs whose millionaire youngsters have yet to prove themselves the Ewings and Barkleys of the future.

Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal served notice of his potential by challenging for the scoring title in his rookie season, and he is joined on the Magic by another improving multi-millionaire, Anfernee Hardaway.

But the Magic's first-round playoff ouster by Indiana last season proved Orlando still lacks some essential skills.

The issue of mammoth salaries to untied newcomers continues to unsettle the league.

A week before opening

day, number one draft choice Glenn Robinson was still haggling with the Milwaukee Bucks. They said Robinson, who played two years of college ball, wanted \$100 million over 13 years. That was \$40 million more than the Bucks wanted to pay.

Several other university stars will make their professional debuts as multimillionaires.

Jason Kidd signed with the Dallas for \$54 million over nine years, which may prove to be the time it will take the mavericks to pull themselves off the bottom of the NBA.

Grant Hill got \$45 million from Detroit over eight years and Donyell Marshall signed with Minnesota for \$42.6 million over nine years.

Inevitably, the salary spiral is causing tension between owners, who want to make the NBA's salary cap more restrictive, and players, who want to do away with it altogether.

The lack of a collective bargaining agreement has already sparked mutterings of a players' strike or a lock-out.

"We feel there is going to be a strike," players' union chief Buck Williams said. "That's the path we're headed down right now."

Both the union and man-

agement have been keeping quiet during October's exhibition season, but the spectre of a strike loomed large in a nation where both baseball and hockey have been brought to a halt by labour disputes.

Balancing that shadow is the dim ray of hope that Michael Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to three straight titles in 1991, '92 and '93, might give up his flirtation with baseball and return to the NBA.

Jordan showed all of his skill and charisma in a charity game in Chicago this summer, and NBA commissioner David Stern would no doubt welcome him back with open arms.

But rumours that Jordan will sign the reinstatement papers Nov. 3 seem to be wishful thinking by fans who found the first season of the post-Jordan era strangely unsatisfying.

"I've thought about it a lot and I can't come up with a single reason to change my mind," Jordan told the New York Post this summer.

"Even if I did, my pride would stop me. I'd never want the media to think they were right. Most of them predicted I'd be back. Well I won't."

The changing of the guard

continues this season with the departure of Isiah Thomas and Bill Laimbeer from Detroit.

And players of every level of experience will have to get to grips with significant rule changes.

The most obvious of these is the shorter three-point shot. But the new rules governing defence were proving more of a handful for players in the exhibition season.

Players can no longer use their hands to guard a player in the backcourt, something that has become second nature to most guards.

"That is an adjustment for some players," said NBA Vice President Rod Thorn. "Some are making it well and some others not as well."

And if a defending player leaves his man, he must go directly to help double-team or the team will be called for illegal defence.

So far the new rules have found few friends.

"I don't think NBA fans around the country are going to come watch free-throw shooting contests and watch the best players sit on the bench with foul trouble," said San Antonio Spurs coach Bob Hill, whose team committed 37 fouls in a pre-season game against New York.

## TWICE A WEEK

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	Yusra, Saliyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah in <b>Al Muhajer (Immigrant)</b>	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Jeff Fahey - Teri Poole Robert Davi in <b>QUICK</b>	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 11:30	CONCORD "1" <b>SPEED</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" <b>PELICAN BRIEF</b> Shows: 3:15, 5:01	Presents: Children's theatre <b>"MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP"</b> at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy <b>"PUNCTURED BAG"</b>	Presents: The political satire: <b>Al Salam Ya Salam</b> Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.		



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lower House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour on Friday issued a statement calling the House for a meeting on Saturday morning.

## Arab boycott office calls off meeting

DAMASCUS (AFP) — The office coordinating the Arab boycott of Israel has called off a meeting here Saturday because not enough countries agreed to take part, the office said Friday. Zuhair Akil, commissioner of the office, told AFP it failed to attract the 12-country quorum needed to hold the meeting. The session was postponed until April. But Akil insisted that the Middle East economic conference opening Sunday in Casablanca, Morocco, and drawing together Israel and Arab countries would "not break" the Arab trade boycott of the Jewish state (see page 2). Only a political decision of the Arab League could lift the boycott in force since 1951, he said. The six Gulf Arab states, however, decided on Sept. 30 to lift an indirect embargo of companies dealing with Israel, while keeping in place their direct boycott of the Jewish state. The Arab League has said the boycott should not be lifted before Israel withdraws from occupied Arab land.

## Germany arrests Syrian-born doctor

BONN (R) — Germany has arrested a Syrian-born doctor on suspicion of passing military secrets to Syrian intelligence, the federal prosecutor's office said on Friday. The 43-year-old man, who was not named, is accused of passing on details of the construction of the U.S.-built Patriot anti-aircraft and anti-missile defence system and various mines, as well as handing over a German military radar receiver. He is alleged to have obtained the information from at least 1992 onwards while working for a company specialising in the neutralisation of weaponry.

## Indonesian Muslim leaders meet Beilin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin met with a delegation of Islamic leaders from Indonesia, the world largest Muslim country, a spokesman said Friday. Indonesia has no ties with the Jewish state, although Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stepped off in Jakarta last October for talks with President Suharto. "Beilin called for a dialogue between religions in order to reduce the violence that accompanies political conflict," the ministry's spokesman Danny Shek said. The deputy minister reiterated in the meeting on Thursday his call for talks with moderates in the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. "The Indonesian religious leaders emphasized that all regions are obliged to repudiate all acts of violence and terror," Mr. Shek added in a statement. "They reported that the Indonesian public is exposed to anti-Israel propaganda and called for relations between the two people to be enhanced." The ministry named "Joban Effendi" as the head of the delegation, which attended Wednesday's ceremony for the signing of the Israeli-Jordan peace treaty, and said he was close to Mr. Suharto.

## Saudi queen in Arizona for surgery

PHOENIX (AP) — The wife of the king of Saudi Arabia had back surgery at an Arizona hospital and will convalesce in Phoenix, a newspaper reported Friday. The queen reportedly had the surgery on her upper vertebrae Wednesday night at the Barrow neurological institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and medical centre, the Arizona Republic said. The king has two wives, and reports did not indicate which one had the surgery. Officials with St. Joseph's and Barrow would not comment. The newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying the lead surgeon was Dr. Volker Sonntag, who specialises in spinal surgery. His office declined to comment. According to the Republic the woman, said to be in her 60s, arrived late Tuesday night in a convoy of three jets and was whisked to the hospital in a limousine. Hospital staff who were to have contact with the queen received special etiquette training on how to treat royalty, the newspaper said. The seventh floor was cleared out and redecorated. Sources told the newspaper the royal family was paying cash and made a "sizeable" donation to the institute. Security was extremely tight and elevator buttons for the seventh floor were locked. A special key was needed to gain access to the floor. "It's the queen's floor," one unnamed hospital staffer told the Republic. "Not just anyone can go up there."

## Saudi beheaded for murdering boys

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi man was beheaded Friday in Medina, western Saudi Arabia, for killing two boys, the interior ministry said. Mansur Ben Dakhlil Allah Al Balawi was convicted of murdering Abdullah Ben Naimish Al Balawi and Abdul Rahman Ben Sulaiman Al A'zazi, a ministry statement quoted by state-run radio said. The beheading raised to 49 the number of people executed in Saudi Arabia this year, according to an AFP toll compiled from official statements.

## Croatian prime minister in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Croatia's prime minister, Nikica Valentic, arrived in Tehran Friday for a three-day official visit, Tehran television reported. The broadcast said it was his second visit to the Islamic republic in seven months. He told reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad airport that "bilateral ties and the crisis in the Balkans" would be the focus of his discussions with Iranian leaders. Iran's vice president, Hassan Habibi, received Mr. Valentic at the airport. He said the promotion of economic ties with Croatia was a priority for Iran. Mr. Valentic is leading a high-ranking delegation, which includes Croatia's minister of industry, the television said.

## France to enforce headscarf ban

PARIS (R) — France said on Friday it would strictly enforce a ban prohibiting Muslim girls from wearing Islamic headscarves in secular state schools, saying democratic principles were at stake. Twenty-five students have been expelled from France's state schools, including 17 from a high school in Lille in northern France this week, since the government cracked down on religious fundamentalism in schools last month. "We will be firm to the end in applying our principles," Education Minister François Bayrou said in a radio interview. Mr. Bayrou said the expulsions followed 18 months of talks with pupils and their families and that there were few alternatives to expulsion "when persuasion failed." Imagine talking about principles "without every applying them," he said. France sees the headscarves as a sign of repression of women and of a dangerous fundamentalism.

## Malaysia frees banned sect leader, five followers

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia on Friday freed the outlawed Islamic sect leader Asaari Mohamad, a week after he recanted his deviant religious beliefs on television, the national news agency Bernama reported. Mr. Asaari, who was held under the country's stringent security laws, was released along with five of his followers, the agency said. "Al Arqam leader Asaari Mohamad and five of his followers detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) were freed today," Mr. Bernama said. The ISA allows for detention of up to two years without trial but Mr. Asaari and seven followers were held under a two-month detention order which expires on Oct. 31. Freed with Mr. Asaari were his wife Khatijah Aam and his followers Zabidi Mohamad, Jalani Jasmani, Ibrahim Mohammad and Shuib Sulaiman. Bernama quoted a police spokesman as saying.

## Clinton warns Iraq, delights U.S. troops

KUWAIT (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton, speaking on Kuwait's Gulf war battlefield, told Iraq on Friday he would never allow it to threaten its neighbour again.

And he delighted U.S. troops with an implied promise that they could expect to be back home by Christmas.

The president, flanked by tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, told hundreds of U.S., British, Kuwaiti and other Gulf Arab troops: "We will not permit Iraq to enhance its capability below the 32nd Parallel" — the line in southern Iraq below which Iraq is already barred from flying its warplanes.

The United States and the international community will not allow Baghdad to threaten its neighbour now or in the future.

"That is not a threat. That is a promise," he said.

The speech was punctuated by cheers and whoops from helmeted soldiers in fatigues brandishing rifles and machineguns in flat featureless desert 20 kilometres west of Kuwait City.

Some of the loudest cheers erupted when Mr. Clinton told the troops: "Don't forget to do your Christmas shopping," a heavy hint that they could expect to be home by the end of the year.

"That was pretty motivating," specialist Jason Johnson of the 24th Mechanised Infantry Division said.

"That was good what he said about Christmas. We want to see our loved ones."

"U.S. forces took no chances with Mr. Clinton's security, throwing a protective ring of steel around a fortified hilltop where they set up a dais for dignitaries."

A Patriot missile launcher

stood 50 metres from the stage on an M-1A1 Abrams tank, Bradley infantry fighting vehicles and trucks with communication equipment stood in a half-kilometre circle as Mr. Clinton chatted with the troops in 35 degree Celsius (95 degree Fahrenheit) sunshine.

Some of the soldiers said the Kuwaitis clearly wanted them to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein following Iraq's deployment of 80,000 troops near the border earlier this month, raising fears of a repeat of its 1990 invasion.

Rock music by Bruce Springsteen and British band "The Who" began being out as soon as Mr. Clinton landed on the desert shortly after his arrival from Israel.

He resumed the second he finished his address to the troops, creating a relaxed and festive atmosphere, as the president in green slacks and open-necked shirt, shook hands with tank crew.

He walked through the ranks for well over an hour signing autographs, chatting and having his picture taken by troops.

Mr. Clinton is the first U.S. sitting president ever to visit Kuwait.

George Bush visited Kuwait in 1993, but as a private citizen, following his leadership of the 32-nation United Nations coalition that drove invading Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Mr. Clinton told the troops he came near the end of his six-nation trip to the Middle East "to say a simple thank you."

Mr. Clinton received a grateful welcome at Kuwait international airport as he stepped from Air Force One. He was greeted by the Emir.



President Bill Clinton chats with American soldiers atop a tank in Kuwait (AFP photo)

Jaber Al Sabah, and together, they reviewed an honour guard.

After a reception, Mr. Clinton flew by helicopter to the desert military base.

He was accompanied on the helicopter by Crown Prince Sheikh Salem Al Sabah.

Mr. Clinton was spending less than six hours in Kuwait.

In advance of Mr. Clinton's visit to Kuwait, the Pentagon announced that two dozen American "warrior" tank-killer jets will be based there to discourage any Iraqi aggression.

Mr. Clinton also basked in a string of foreign policy successes Friday.

"Just consider what has happened in the last two weeks," Mr. Clinton told the soldiers.

"I am honoured as I know all of you are that America was able to play a role in ending 47 years of conflict between Israel and Jordan," said the president, who on

Wednesday was present at the border between those two countries for the signing of their historic peace treaty.

Mr. Clinton also cited the reinstatement of Haïdi's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

On the progress on peace in Northern Ireland and South Africa's turn towards democracy as highlights of the recent weeks.

And the list, which the administration hopes will boost Mr. Clinton and thus the Democrats facing tough races in the Nov. 8 congressional vote, did not end there.

"Building a new partnership with Russia," he added, "enables us to say for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age: 'There are no nuclear missiles pointed at the children of the United States.'"

The president's popularity appears to be edging up at home, where some Democratic candidates have refused to appear with him fearing they

would be tainted by his dwindling approval ratings.

A USA Today-CNN poll out Thursday showed Mr. Clinton's approval rating up by seven points to 48 per cent, his largest short-term gain in a year. It also had good news for his party, with 49 per cent of registered voters pledging their support compared to 46 per cent for the Republicans.

## Increased build-up

Qatar and Kuwait have agreed to provide bases for additional U.S. armour and attack jets in a Gulf buildup to prepare for any new military threat from Iraq, the Defence Department said on Thursday.

Qatar will accept the positioning of tanks and supplies for use by a brigade of over 2,000 U.S. troops should the need arise to again send American soldiers to the Gulf, spokesman Ken Bacon told reporters.

## Hassan II highly upbeat on Casablanca conference

LONDON (Agencies) — An economic summit in Casablanca beginning Sunday must help develop the "formidable potential" of the Middle East once peace is established, Morocco's King Hassan II said in an interview published Friday.

"Peace is not just a paper that you sign. Peace must have a content," the king told the Financial Times. "It must force common interests which put it beyond the reach of a new flare-up. The peace process has no meaning or reality unless it is accompanied by an economic development process."

King Hassan said he believed the Casablanca conference, to be attended by executives from leading multinational companies as well as heads of state and government, would and must "provide answers in the short term which will change the everyday life of people in the region."

It must, he said, "get across to political and business leaders both that this region has a formidable potential once peace is established, and that it has a desperate need for capital and jobs, which alone can make the peace process meaningful to the great majority of its people."

Last week in a groundbreaking interview with Israeli television, King Hassan said Morocco had a special relationship with Israel, based on its continuing links with 600,000 Jews of Morocco.

co origin "whom I consider my children even if today they reside in Israel."

An Israeli "liaison office" was to be opened Friday as a step towards formal diplomatic relations.

King Hassan said he was not surprised by last week's suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv which killed 23 people, including the Hamas bomber.

He thought it might well be repeated and that both sides should be ready for that. But he said this was a reason to accelerate the peace process, not slow it down.

A rapid move ahead to "the second phase, in which the Israeli army will be redeployed and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) administrative authority will no longer be confined to the Gaza Strip and the island of Jericho" would enable Israel and the PLO to work together more successfully to combat violence.

"The longer you confine this entity to such a small surface, the more the dangers will multiply," he warned.

The king also emphasised his determination to modernise his country. His only fear is that "change is coming too slowly" and that "if we do not change, Morocco may fall victim to its own administrative routine."

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the current performance of Western Europe, saying he was "very sceptical" about the latest grand design from Brussels for a Euro-Mediterranean economic area.

"We've had so many promises from Europe. But Europe is expanding. It's trying to digest mentalities and social structures which are different from its own. It's trying to deal with everything at once and with itself," the king said.

Top executives from more than 1,000 foreign enterprises and more than 40 heads of state or government have been invited to the three-day summit opening at Casablanca's royal palace on Sunday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was expected to fly to Morocco on Saturday to attend the summit.

King Hassan Friday met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at Bouznika, 40 kilometres south of Rabat, ahead of the summit.

Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali also attended the meeting, which focused on the Middle East peace process and the summit.

The economic summit "opens under very promising auspices," the monarch told Israeli journalists.

"I am satisfied that peace after this conference will have a substance, a substratum and a base, so that it will not be just an empty word, signed papers, but that there will be an interdependence of interests (...) between all people in the region, be they Mediterranean or from the Middle East."

Mr. Peres and seven other Israeli ministers arrived in Morocco earlier Friday for the summit and the opening of a liaison office in Rabat.

## Clinton visit fruitful

(Continued from page 1)

wife with the highest honours of Jordan.

While President Clinton and the official delegation accompanying him headed for Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Mrs. Hillary Clinton flew to Israel from Amman. Mr. Clinton joined her there after his talks with President Assad in Damascus.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Thursday that President Clinton's speech to Parliament was highly significant on three counts.

Mr. Clinton stressed his country's respect for Islam as one of the greatest religions and dismissed widely heard suggestions heard in Europe and the U.S. that Islam was linked with extremism, Dr. Anani noted.

The minister said Mr. Clinton also addressed the issue of relations between Islam and Christianity, saying there is no conflict between the two religions.

Dr. Anani noted that Mr. Clinton also underlined the strength of Jordanian-American relations by referring to ties that date back to several decades.

In a reference to those who try to misinterpret U.S.-Jordanian relations by saying that it is a relation between the strong and the weak, Dr. Anani said President Clinton's speech stressed that this is an unfair judgement against Jordan which has always been determined to safeguard its dignity and to be respected.

Those who label accusations against Jordan as doing their best to cur-

ravour with the U.S. in order to expand their influence in the region and try to impose their will on Jordan, which is a neutral and moderate country in the region, Dr. Anani said.

He added that Jordan seeks to maintain brotherly relations with all Arab countries.

Also figuring prominently in President Clinton's speech was the realisation by the USA of Jordan's pivotal role, not only in the peace-making process but also in maintaining it and ensuring its sustainability.

In his speech Mr. Clinton pledged his country's support for Jordan's political role in the region and said it should be enhanced by helping Jordan to overcome its economic problems such as poverty and unemployment.

## FIS leaders demand 'total freedom'

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The leaders of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, called Friday for an end to house arrest and "total freedom" in order to help end a violent fundamentalist campaign.

In their first public statement since the military-backed government freed the leaders of the banned FIS from jail on Sept. 15, they called for total freedom to find "a legal and just solution to bring the country out of crisis."

The demand came in a handwritten statement made available to AFP by a lawyer who said he had been mandated to do so by the Muslim fundamentalist leaders, who were convicted of state security offences in June 1992 and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Mr. Madani and his fiery deputy were already behind bars in January 1992 when the military cancelled the second round of the country's first free general elections which the FIS was poised to win.

That move sparked a bloody guerrilla campaign by Islamic extremists which has claimed 10,000 lives according to officials.

Friday's message came in reply to a statement by government spokesman Ahmad Attaf, who on Wednesday said: "The state has taken appeasement measures on behalf of the leaders of the dissolved party and have been waiting to this day for them to sock by their commitments."

"A time-limit has been given to the leadership of the ex-FIS to call for an end to violence" and "all steps have been taken to enable (them) to undertake the necessary consultations," Mr. Attaf added.

But Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj responded: "Every-

body knows that we are detained from a legal point of view. Our detention under house does not enable us to co-opt the rest of the FIS leadership, political or military. We are only a part of that leadership."

The two added that the commitments they made in a Sept. 6 letter to President Liamine Zerroual remain "in force, with everything that arises from them."

In the letter, Mr. Madani, Mr. Belhadj and three other top FIS officials had said they would "try to find a real and radical solution to the crisis shaking Algeria" and to that end made a first call for "total freedom" to draw all Islamic leaders into talks, including those of armed movements.

On Friday, Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj charged that the government had only taken "partial measures" which would not get to the "root of the crisis."

The government "is focusing its concerns on calming the situation down... and is appealing to us to call for an end to violence and to condemn it. This way of setting out the problem is superficial and can only worsen the crisis and complicate it."

Sixty-two per cent of French people think that France should not take in Algerian refugees who would flee their country in case of an Islamic fundamentalist takeover, a poll said.

Asked if France has the duty to take in refugees from its former colony, only 30 per cent answered "yes" while there were eight per cent "don't know," said the poll by the Sofres institute to be published Saturday in the weekly Figaro Magazine.

Fifty-six per cent of left-wing sympathisers were against taking in Algerian refugees, compared with 72 per cent of right-wingers.

## Stomach infection linked to girl's stunted growth

LONDON (R) — Doctors have discovered that a stomach infection linked to ulcers and cancer may also cause stunted growth in young girls, the British Medical Journal said Friday. Researchers at London's St. George's Hospital investigated 500 children from 30 different primary schools in Edinburgh and found girls aged seven to 11 who had helicobacter pylori were on average 1.6 in (0.63 inches) shorter than children not infected. "The greater reduction of growth among infected girls raises the possibility that helicobacter pylori infection may delay or diminish the pubertal growth spurt," the Journal said. The doctors also found that the risk of infection is greater among children of one-parent families living in overcrowded homes and attending schools in deprived areas. The infection, which is usually acquired before the age of 10, lasts for several decades. It is associated with peptic ulcers and more recently a link with gastric cancer has been found. The Journal said a two-week course of antibiotics can eliminate infection in most patients.

## Stress causes illness in U.K. ethnic minorities

LONDON (R) — Ethnic minorities in Britain are more likely to suffer from serious psychotic illness than whites because of the stress they endure, a leading medical journal said Friday. Dr. Michael King of the University Department of Psychiatry at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and colleagues at St. Ann's Hospital, both in London, conducted a year-long study of patients with psychotic symptoms. "Members of all ethnic minority groups were more likely to develop a psychosis but not necessarily schizophrenia," they wrote in the British Medical Journal. The research team said that although there is a biological component to psychosis, their findings "suggested that the personal and social pressures of belonging to any ethnic minority group in Britain are important determinants in the excess of psychotic disorder found." In a separate article, researchers discovered that blacks and Asians in southeastern England are three times more likely to need treatment for kidney failure, including dialysis and transplants, than whites. Dr. P.J. Roderick of the North West Thames Regional Health Authority in London said higher rates of diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure could be to blame. "Black and Asian people receive and have a greater need for renal replacement therapy, and the need will increase as these populations age," they wrote.

## Kermit tells Oxford students to go Green

OXFORD, England (R) — Kermit the Frog, actor, singer, environmentalist and amphibian, Friday urged students at Oxford University's famed debating society to think Green and clean up their rooms. He also warned the August debating chamber against kissing frogs who might turn into princes, saying the scandal-plagued British royal family has enough problems already. Kermit followed in the footsteps of Mother Teresa and U.S. President Ronald Reagan after being invited by fervent muppet fan Joanna Carr, the Oxford Union librarian. Kermit urged students: "If the earth is our home then, on behalf of all the animals in the world, I am asking you to please clean up your room." But the speech revealed the star of the muppets was thin on academic qualifications. "With several thousand tadpoles in my tuition, I couldn't afford the tuition. Of course, like most frogs, I could have gone into biology and majored in dissection but I wasn't really cut out for that," he said. Kermit, now a politically correct 40-year-old who has written his own "new age man" autobiography and just released a Kermit Unpigged album, has for years been pursued by Miss Piggy on television and in films. Originally made out of a winter coat owned by the mother of puppeteer Jim Henson, who died four years ago, Kermit does not feel threatened by women and boasts a range of designer clothing in the United States for the dapper frog about town.

## Rabin: Agreement needs change

(Continued from page 1)

for Reuters in Gaza, and his brother Amer Shreiteh, 29, a cameraman for CBS, were arrested at their office in Gaza City on Wednesday night.

They said that police also confiscated a fax machine and searched the office.

Police officials in Gaza said that both were being held at the Gaza central prison and questioned about "associations" with Hamas.

Taher Shreiteh was arrested by Palestinian police for five days earlier this month after a local Reuters television crew videotaped an

armed Hamas militant reading a leaflet in which Hamas claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman.

In the West Bank, Israeli soldiers detained a leading activist of the PLO's mainstream Fateh movement, accusing him of organising a march against Jordan in the town of Hebron on Wednesday while the peace treaty with Israel was being signed.

Palestinian sources said that the activist, Azmi Sweikhi, was summoned to military headquarters in Hebron on Friday.